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TOMORROW

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Lebed is intolerable, says Yeltsin

TV dismissal for Kremlin security chief

FROM RICHARD BEESTON AND ROBIN LODGE IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT YELTSIN attempted to re-establish his shaky authority over Russia yesterday when he dismissed General Aleksandr Lebed, the country's most popular politician, as security chief.

Weeks of conflict between General Lebed and senior government figures came to a head when Mr Yeltsin interrupted state television schedules to tell the nation that the general had to go.

"I can no longer tolerate this situation and I am forced to relieve General Lebed of his position as Secretary of the Security Council," he said in a broadcast from the Barvikha sanatorium. He was then handed a presidential decree and a pen and signed the dismissal order on live television.

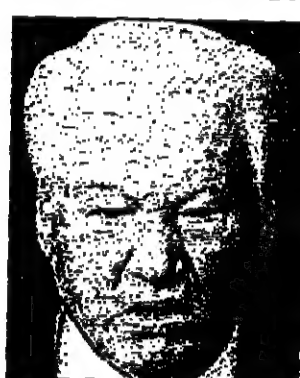
But if the sacking was intended to silence the former paratrooper, it had little immediate effect. General Lebed said that he did not mind "in the slightest" and would remain active in politics, although he would not make a presidential bid "while Russia had a living president".

He went on to forecast that events in Chechnya would go according to the "worst possible scenario" after his dismissal, saying: "I am the only one who is trusted in Chechnya" - and not only Chechnya.

He also gave a warning that a severe lack of funding for the armed forces would provoke a crisis later this year. "We are heading for a very hot autumn," he said.

Rebel leaders in Chechnya had earlier predicted that war would flare up again if General Lebed - who negotiated and signed a ceasefire seven weeks ago - were to go. "If they get rid of Lebed we will have to prepare for war because you can expect anything from people like Kulikov," the rebel chief-of-staff Aslan Maskhadov said.

He was referring to the Interior Minister, Anatoli Kulikov, who precipitated General Lebed's downfall by accusing him of plotting a mutiny against the President by planning to create a 5,000-strong "Russian Legion". That claim was supported yesterday by the Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, who accused General Lebed of irresponsibility, incompetence



Yeltsin: pen produced for signing decree



Lebed: will not stand while president lives

and a home-grown Napoleon complex.

The power struggle that had left General Lebed in conflict with almost every senior member of the government meant that his sacking had become inevitable. In his television address yesterday, Mr Yeltsin accused him of failing to work with other government departments and of making mistakes that damaged Russia. More importantly, he accused him of running a presidential election campaign, even though the next poll is not due until 2000.

General Lebed, who has made little secret of his ambitions and repeatedly challenged the ailing President's authority, responded with indifference. "I'm not bothered in the slightest," he said. "I'm so thick-skinned I have long since stopped being offended."

After a "good night's sleep," he would begin work on forming a political movement and "preparing for possible presidential elections".

General Lebed's fall from grace is the latest move in a Kremlin power game that

began before Mr Yeltsin's re-election in July and which intensified as his health declined and the main contenders for the succession began to manoeuvre into position.

The 46-year-old general made his first foray into politics less than a year ago when he ran for the State Duma, and he came a strong third in the inconclusive first round of the presidential elections in June. Mr Yeltsin's chief of staff, Anatoli Chubais, approved the general's appointment to the administration and then apparently strengthened his position by orchestrating the removal of the former chief of the presidential bodyguard, Aleksandr Kozlov.

But it was an alliance of convenience and once Mr Yeltsin was safely re-elected, General Lebed's influence within the Kremlin immediately began to wane. The President, who before the poll had been happy to talk of the general as his chosen successor, quickly distanced himself from his protégé and slapped him down when he tried to assert himself.

Even the decision to put him in charge of the Chechnya peace process was a poison chalice - all previous efforts had failed and there was no reason to suppose that General Lebed would fare any better. When he succeeded in negotiating a ceasefire, he won few plaudits in Moscow even though his efforts made him a popular hero.

General Lebed's sacking may now increase his popularity, and he is likely to try to perpetuate the image of an underdog fighting the system - as Mr Yeltsin did himself in the Gorbachev era.

Much of what happens next will depend on President Yeltsin's health and the outcome of the heart bypass operation he is due to undergo next month. If his condition deteriorates so that he can no longer run the country, General Lebed would be hard to beat. But if Mr Yeltsin serves out his four-year term, the general may well become just another who tried and failed to unseat the president.

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Leading article, page 23



Francis Lawrence, widow of the murdered headmaster, leaves the Old Bailey yesterday after hearing the verdict

Headmaster's killer, 16, gets life

By JOANNA BAILE

THE widow of Philip Lawrence, the murdered headmaster, watched in court yesterday as a 16-year-old boy was found guilty of his murder.

Francis Lawrence's face registered no emotion as the jury delivered its verdict on Leandro Chindamo, who stabbed her husband through the heart with a ten-inch knife outside his school last December.

Chindamo, a leader of a Triad-style street gang, looked shocked as Judge Neil Denison, the Common Sergeant of London, ordered him to be detained indefinitely.

Before sentencing the teenager, the son of an Italian father and Filipino mother, Judge Denison said: "Philip Lawrence was a good man and an inspirational teacher. He dedicated and devoted his life to providing a future for young people in his care. You took that life and therefore diminished that future. You will be detained during Her Majesty's pleasure."

After the judge lifted an order which had previously

banned the identification of Chindamo, Mrs Lawrence left the court to telephone her four children to tell them of the verdict.

She declined to comment on the outcome of the case, but in a statement, Detective Constable Robin Lane, who had sat with her through the hearing, said: "Mrs Lawrence feels now that her place is with her children. She has described her husband's murder as an earthquake which destabilised the very foundation of their life. Her main concern is to



Chindamo: jailed for an indefinite period

guide them through the aftermath."

Although she had attended every day of the four-week trial, there had been no sign of her children Maroushka, 21, Myfanwy, 19, Unity, 14, and Lucien, 9.

Mrs Lawrence, who had met her husband when they both taught at the same school, sat in the same chair every day at the back of Court Six in the Old Bailey, looking remarkably composed. It recently emerged that she had been stalked by a man whom she had seen on several occasions in the garden of the family home in Ealing, west London. Detectives are still trying to find him.

Chindamo of Camden, north London, was also found guilty along with a 15-year-old boy, of two other counts concerning the attack on a 13-year-old pupil of Mr Lawrence's school, St George's in Maida Vale, west London. The headmaster was stabbed as he tried to ward off the boy's attackers.

The court heard that Chindamo had later confessed three times to his friends to

killing the head teacher but pleaded not guilty when arrested by the police. He tried to pin the murder on another member of his gang who was a pupil at St George's and who has since left the country. Police believe he may be in the Philippines and say he is wanted in connection with the attack on the 13-year-old.

Gang link, Page 6

Law may change as widow loses plea for baby

By FRANCES GIBB AND EMMA WILKINS

A CHANGE in the law will be sought after a young widow yesterday lost her High Court battle for the right to have her dead husband's child by artificial insemination.

Sir Stephen Brown, President of the Family Division of the High Court, said there was "universal sympathy" for Diane Blood, 30, whose husband died of meningitis before they had children.

The judge accepted that to prevent Mrs Blood from being inseminated with her husband's sperm, taken as he lay in a coma, was in effect a "double bereavement". But he ruled that the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority had acted lawfully with its ban. The law required written consent and no exception could be made.

However, the judge raised the possibility of a law change, saying that Baroness Warlock, whose inquiry gave rise to the authority, had made a "compelling submission" that written consent should be waived in such cases.

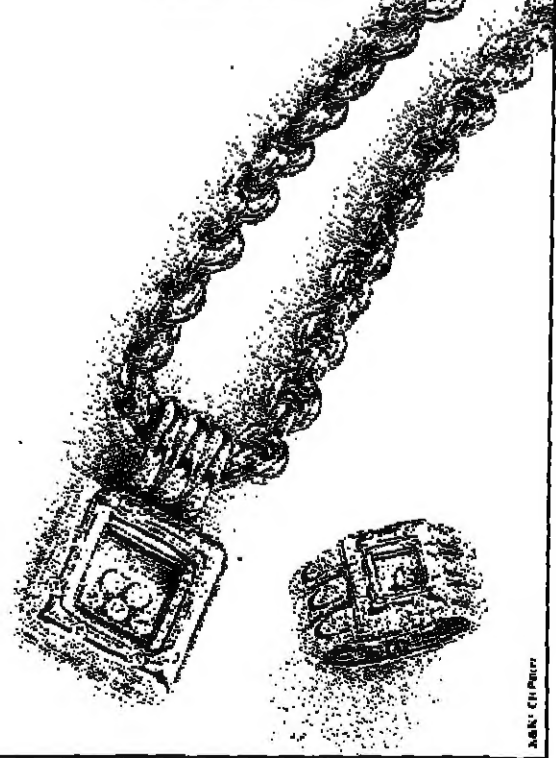
Mrs Blood's friends and family launched an appeal to raise funds. The legal bill so far is nearly £50,000 but that could rise to £100,000 with an appeal, for which the judge gave leave. It may be in January.

Joan Lester, MP for Eccles, and a former Shadow Cabinet minister, called for the law to be changed so a woman may use her husband's sperm without his written consent. She will consider tabling a Bill in the coming parliamentary session.

Lord Winston, a fertility expert, said he would consider introducing a backbench Bill in the Lords.

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Gun law backing

The chances of the Commons passing the Government's proposed gun laws increased after the Liberal Democrats said that most of their MPs would support them. Page 8

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Stalkers will face jail terms

By RICHARD FORD
HOME CORRESPONDENT

STALKERS will face prison terms of up to five years under government proposals to be unveiled today.

David Maclean, a junior Home Office minister, will announce that a combination of civil and criminal law will be used to curb stalkers.

Ministers expect a back-bencher to introduce the proposals in a Private Member's Bill, which they believe will be the quickest way to get the Royal Assent.

Under the proposals a civil measure will allow victims to seek an injunction against the person responsible but breaching the injunction would be a criminal offence.

College head admits CV errors

By PAUL WILKINSON AND DAVID CHARTER

THE principal of one of Durham University's colleges is being investigated after discrepancies were found in the list of qualifications in his application.

The Rev Dr Duane Wade-Hampton Arnold, the American-born principal of St Chad's theological college, is accused of claiming honours he does not hold.

Dr Arnold, 43, has cut a controversial figure with staff and students since he was appointed in 1994 to try to regenerate St Chad's. Students passed a motion censuring his management style which included limiting the number of guests they could sign in to the college bar.

An investigation was launched after a university colleague queried Dr Arnold's qualifications with the Dur-

ham authorities. Last night Cambridge University said it had no record of Dr Arnold attending the university or awarding him a post-graduate diploma in theology which the doctor claims in his *Who's Who* entry.

Dr Arnold also lists a Master of Divinity degree from "Philadelphia University" which does not exist. Neither of the city's two biggest universities, the University of Pennsylvania and Penn State University, had any record of him.

Dr Arnold acknowledged that there were mistakes in his published qualifications but denied he had done this deliberately to enhance his academic record and blamed "clerical errors".

"There are a number of discrepancies which have ap-

peared through various publications. As soon as they were drawn to my attention I had them dealt with immediately. I will not be resigning."

The compilers of *Who's Who* are revising his entry for next year. A spokeswoman would not say precisely what was being altered.

Keith Scarrott, the university's spokesman, said there was no doubt that Dr Arnold was suitably qualified for his £40,000 post. He said: "Discrepancies were found in material which was supplied to the university for an application for a work permit in 1994. Since the university made the application in good faith on behalf of the college, we have now written to the Department for Education and Employment to inform them of the situation."



He was having a dream that Clare Short was his mother

Smuggler jailed

A Russian judge sentenced a British teenager to six years in a labour camp after she was found guilty of smuggling cocaine through Moscow airport. Karen Henderson, 18, is expected to serve her term at a camp for foreigners. Page 11

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Mr Toad, MP, must heed the Wild Wood

Parliament was prodded yesterday to audible sighs of Tory relief. The night before, the sleaze debate had stolen upon them yet again, a debate from which they just cannot break free. Is there any hope, they ask, that the Queen's Speech may move the nation's attention on?

There is no hope. This fuss will not go away. You and I can see that. They cannot. Intelligent men and women, in touch with media opinion and saloon-bar wisdom too, stubbornly refuse to accept what is plain to the rest of Britain.

On this, the Parliamentary Conservative Party evinces strange echoes of the Labour Party in the Eighties. Most of

Britain could see that the Opposition's links with organised labour were a millstone round its neck; a few thoughtful Labour MPs could, too. We watched a great political party lumbering down a road to ignominy, somehow unable to turn.

With Labour then, as with the Tories now, the party's leaders were torn. To lead a British party is to be at the same time the chief of a minority tribe and political counsellor to a whole nation. They are not the same. The tribe may be small, but they choose and anoint their chief, and sustain him at Westminster.

Situated as you and I are among the great apolitical mass, the mass feels over-



MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

whelming; but to a politician it is noises off: growth from the jungle beyond the stockade; disturbing but incoherent, often irrational, hard to address or consult and with no immediate power to harm. Better the lusty cheers of the party conference, the plaudits of your loyal constituents, than the news that people on buses may hate you a little less today than they did yesterday. To a leader troubled by shrieks from the Wild Wood of popular opinion, the warm regard of colleagues is a familiar

elderdown, to be pulled over the head until some imaginary dawn.

In presentational terms at least, Tony Blair has kicked off the elderdown. He has reread Macaulay: "No man is fit to govern great societies who hesitates about disobliging the few who have access to him for the sake of the many he will never see."

By nature more cautious, John Major, too, sets little store by the elderdown. He is better attuned to the Wild Wood than some of his col-

leagues. But he needs his colleagues. He knows, too, what they know, what many of the Labour Party secretly know, and what the media know but will not say — that the debate about sleaze is overheated; that corruption is uncommon; and that the influence available to contributors to party funds is small. Within the Commons smoking room, you cannot win the argument for taking a sledgehammer to crack this nut.

But on the top deck of a No 77 bus to Clapham, you cannot lose it. Thus is Mr Major caught. Times are changing. He knows that in the end MPs will have to stop taking consultations. He knows that in the end big political donations will

have to be declared. And he knows that, for a Tory, inevitability is the strongest argument of all. Someone has to knock the Tories' heads together and tell them that if the public is determined to get something out of proportion, the Conservative Party had better get it out of proportion too — and fast.

There is now only one way for Major to rip his party from the media's web of sleaze, and that is to move sharply ahead of public expectations, if necessary on a free Commons vote. Major's reputation for decency is his greatest asset. It is too late for the Tories to ditch him now. This is his chance to rescue them from themselves. He has a few months.

Former minister faces constituency challenge

Sir Nicholas Scott, the former minister found slumped on a pavement during the Tory conference, is to face an emergency meeting of his constituency association. The MP was found in a confused state after attending a party thrown by the Irish Embassy. The only item on the agenda for the executive meeting of Kensington and Chelsea Conservative Association in November is the "recent behaviour" of the former Northern Ireland Minister. Sir Nicholas, who blamed his condition on painkillers reacting with a "modest" quantity of wine, declined to comment.

Doctors warn of NHS cash crisis

The health service is turning away patients and cancelling operations to save money only six months into the financial year, the British Medical Association has said. Many trusts are already overspent and without an immediate injection of extra funds, the NHS could be reduced to an emergency-only service this winter, it said.

Motorway jams predicted

Motorists face the worst traffic jams of the year today, according to Trafficmaster, producers of the in-car route-finding system. The company said its equipment indicated that more than 300,000 vehicles would be crawling along motorways this afternoon at speeds of less than 30mph. Many would contain families going on half-term holidays.

Clarke focuses on tax options

Kenneth Clarke will host a meeting today at Dorneywood, his country residence, to discuss Government options for the Budget. Most of the discussion involving the Chancellor, Treasury ministers, officials and special advisers is expected to focus on tax options. Mr Clarke will disclose the scope for tax cuts, against worse than expected borrowing figures.

'New Scots' pledge allegiance

The Scottish National Party has declared that it is no longer necessary to come from Scotland to be deemed Scottish. Activists from the party who were born south of the border yesterday tried to scotch claims from Michael Forsyth, the Scottish Secretary, that the party is anti-English by uniting under the banner of New Scots.

Car-crash rock player was drunk

Rob Collins, 33, the keyboard player for the rock band The Charlatans, had drunk more than twice the legal limit before his death in a car crash, a Gwent inquest was told. His BMW overturned on a bend near Monmouth, South Wales, as he drove to a late-night recording session after a pub birthday celebration. Verdict: misadventure.

Westminster probe reopens

A fresh investigation has opened into allegations over Westminster City Council. John Magill, the district auditor, has written to 40 people connected with his original "homes for votes" inquiry saying he wants to examine documents over claims that hostels were sold off cheaply, and that marginal wards were targeted for environmental work.

Win for homosexual teacher

A drama teacher who was struck off after a conviction of a homosexual act with two adults has been reinstated on appeal to the Court of Session in Edinburgh. John Murphy, of Govanhill, Glasgow, was removed from the register by the disciplinary committee of the General Teaching Council for Scotland. The Court is to give written reasons later.

Driving ban for Rangers player

The Scotland and Rangers footballer Ally McCoist was banned from driving for the second time this month. McCoist, 34, received a 15-month ban two weeks ago for a drink-driving offence. Magistrates in Hexham yesterday further banned McCoist, who was not at the hearing but admitted driving at 101 mph on the A69.

Foreign Office denies spying claim

Claims by a businessman that he was encouraged by MI6 to take part in a covert operation to supply warship engine parts to Argentina were denied by Foreign Office sources yesterday. Clive Russell, a former Royal Navy officer, said he was recruited to pass on details about the Argentine military.

Lobbyists want MPs to regulate their political business

By Andrew Pierce, Political Correspondent

POLITICAL lobbyists, whose reputation has been tarnished by the cash-for-questions affair, appealed to Parliament yesterday to take over the regulation of the industry.

The move, which includes identity cards for regulated lobbyists for the first time, came as GJW International defended its contract with Colonel Gaddafi's government, which was disclosed in *The Times* yesterday.

GJW International, part of GJW Government Relations, has lucrative contracts to promote trade with Libya and to monitor British media comment. At least one lobbyist turned down the contract because of the risk of adverse publicity.

Andrew Gifford, the GJW chief executive, denied that the company was trying to improve Colonel Gaddafi's image. "That is not what our contract is about," he said. "Our work in connection with Libya is focused with the British Libyan group, which is funded by a number of UK companies engaged in trade with Libya. UK trade with Libya is worth several hundred millions of pounds a year making it one of our larger export markets." The country



Gaddafi: contract with his country defended

is subjected to trade sanctions by the United Nations.

Mr Gifford, whose company's clients include J Sainsbury and British Telecom, said that the media-monitoring contract, funded by the Libyan government, was a subsidiary one.

Diplomatic relations between Britain and Libya were severed by Baroness Thatcher in 1985 after Police Constable Yvonne Fletcher was killed by a shot fired from the Libyan People's Bureau in London. GJW International has dis-

cussed PC Fletcher's murder, and the Lockerbie bombing in 1988 which left 270 dead, with the Libyan authorities as part of their media-monitoring.

Mr Gifford, whose company is one of the biggest lobbyists in Britain, attended an emergency meeting yesterday of the Association of Professional Political Consultants, of which he is chairman. The association, which wants regulation by Parliament, has banned any financial dealings with MPs among its members. Ian Greer, the lobbyist at the centre of the recent controversy, was a founder member. He submitted his resignation to the association yesterday.

Charles Miller, the association secretary, said: "Some lobbyists choose not to be regulated. We can exercise no sanction over them regardless of their activities. We have to ensure that everyone who claims to deal for gain with institutions of the Government works to most scrupulous standards." The association has outlined its proposals to Tony Newton, the Leader of the Commons, and members of the Select Committee on Standards and Privileges, which is examining the cash for questions affair.



The estate in Swansea where residents are being asked to pay £91,000 for access

Homeowners are held to ransom over access road

By Bill Frost

AN ESTATE of executive homes has been all but cut off from the outside world by a property company claiming up to £91,000 from house-holders for use of a "ransom strip" of access road.

The Court of Appeal has ruled that homeowners do not have a right of way to their properties, some of which are worth £350,000 each. The road to the estate, owned by the company, has

been valued at £2 million. Milkmen and dustmen, fearing litigation, have given the estate a wide berth. Postal deliveries are also said to have been disrupted.

Yesterday each of the 36 households on the Whitegates development in Swansea received a letter from Overseas Investment Services, which owns the access road, warning them that they face court action if they continue crossing the ransom strip. The company's solicitors demanded written guarantees that residents would not use the access road.

OIS has also applied for planning permission to build a house across the entrance to the estate. Peter Davidson, who moved to the estate five years ago, questioned yesterday why planning permission was granted for Whitegates at all.

"Quite frankly, it is a fiasco. The whole thing should have

been sorted out before the houses were ever built. The developers who own this plot of land are using the residents as pawns to get the £2 million that they want."

After the houses were built the local authority adopted the road as a public highway. However, OIS won a Court of Appeal ruling that the entrance belonged to them. Talks between the council and the company have so far failed to settle the dispute.

A spokesman said: "We granted planning permission for the houses including a requirement that there should be no ransom strip. We can only hope that there is an amicable outcome to this dispute."

However, at the moment homeowners at Whitegates have been told injunctions will be sought should they use the ransom strip.

Solicitors for OIS were unavailable for comment.

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'I just want to be able to lead the rest of my life as Stephen and I had planned'

Wife will continue fight to have dead husband's baby

By Emma Wilkins



Oxley: hid two dogs

Reluctant judge fines pet smuggler

By Russell Jenkins

A WOMAN was fined £1,000 yesterday for trying to evade the quarantine rules by smuggling two black Labrador puppies back into Britain from France.

Caroline Oxley, 36, a mother of three, hid the dogs under a blanket in a hired van. Police and trading standards officers discovered the animals in the back of her home at West Stockwith, Nottinghamshire, four days later. She admitted two charges of landing an animal in March.

The leniency of the fine is likely to add to the pressure on Douglas Hogg, the Agriculture Minister, to scrap quarantine for a passport-for-pets scheme. The Times reported on Monday that the minister had proposed a review with a view to liberalising the law.

Judge Hopkin, sitting at Nottingham Crown Court, said in apparent reference to the Times report that quarantine currently had a high profile. However, his job was to comply with the law as it was.

He told Oxley: "I have not the slightest doubt that you are a very honest, straightforward person. This is not a case of somebody seeking to smuggle in a dog that had had no vaccinations, that may have been in contact with foxes or other animals that may have rabies."

The court was told that the Oxleys, made redundant from their job as caretakers of a French chateau after two years in their posts, could not afford quarantine charges, which can cost up to £2,000 for one dog.

Wife's mission, page 21

DIANE BLOOD broke down in tears yesterday as she promised never to give up her fight for the right to bear her late husband's baby. Although angry and bewildered by the High Court ruling that she could not be inseminated without his written permission, Mrs Blood said she knew her husband Stephen would support her efforts to conceive by artificial insemination.

"I just want to be able to lead the rest of my life as Stephen and I had planned it. He would be very angry that I was facing this battle but I know he would want me to stand up for myself," she said.

Mrs Blood, 30, who runs a public relations company specialising in nursery products, said it was up to God, not the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority, to decide whether she should be allowed to have her husband's child.

"I have the most right of anyone to my husband's sperm and I desperately want his baby. The authority is putting a stop to something which is up to God. If I win my case on appeal, it will still be up to God whether I can have Stephen's baby," she said.

Mrs Blood criticised the court system which means she has already incurred costs of £50,000 and been forced to take out a second mortgage on her bungalow in Worksop, Nottinghamshire. "The whole system is so unjust to put me through this with the costs and everything. It seems that people are trying to put a price on justice. For me this issue is



Diane Blood: wept as she vowed to fight on

beyond price." Mrs Blood paid tribute to the "tremendous support" she had received from Stephen's family and her own parents Michael and Sheila McMahon. The current legislation, which means Mrs Blood could be artificially inseminated by a stranger's sperm with his written consent, but not her own husband's, was "extraordinary and crazy," she said.

Mrs Blood, who met her husband aged 16, married him in 1991 after nine years together. For the wedding, the couple chose a service from the 1662 Book of Common Prayer reflecting their traditional Church of England values.

After three years of marriage, the couple decided that they wanted to have a child and told close friends and family of their plans. In early 1995 they believed Mrs Blood was expecting a baby and began making plans to decorate a nursery in their

bungalow. In the midst of their excitement Mr Blood, 30, contracted bacterial meningitis and was rushed to hospital.

As her husband lay in a coma, Mrs Blood asked doctors to take a sample of his sperm, saying they were desperate for a child. A second sample was taken on the day Mr Blood died, four days after his admission to hospital.

Paul Plant, who was Mr Blood's partner in a bathroom installation business, said his friend's desire for a child was overwhelming. "He was a star of a man. On the Thursday before he died he was out playing with my children. He wanted children so bad it hurt," Mr Plant added, as he brushed tears from his eyes.

He was devoted to Diane and his family and hers. He was a special person who had the ability to laugh at virtually everything. He was a prince."

Mrs Blood's father Brian yesterday attacked the High Court ruling as devastating. "This decision has upset the whole family. We were all giving Diane our total support."

"My son and Diane had been teenage sweethearts. I don't think she ever had another boyfriend. My two daughters and two sons had all grown up together with her. We have two grandchildren, but this one would have been the first from Diane and my son."

The Stephen Blood Baby Appeal was set up yesterday for donations towards Mrs Blood's legal costs. Telephone 0121 643 4636.

Leading article, p23



The Bloods on their wedding day. They had wanted children and had begun making plans for a nursery

Warnock blames herself for not foreseeing such a case

By Frances Gibb
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

BARONESS WARNOCK, who chaired the committee whose findings led to the creation of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority, said yesterday that she blamed herself for not foreseeing a case like that of Diane Blood.

"We didn't think of this kind of contingency." The case was "an extremely exceptional case," she said. The law could be loosened slightly that it could be left to the court to decide in each particular case, she added. "Posthumous conception can take place only if the sperm has been frozen and why would anyone freeze the sperm except with a view to doing this? It's a tiny number of people who are affected." Her comments, on Radio

4's *World at One*, were echoed by other experts in medical ethics. The fertility specialist Lord Winston, who had told the court that to withhold the sperm seemed "cruel and unnatural," said on *World at One* that he was considering a backbench Bill. He had spoken with peers and the House of Lords appeared not to have intended the Bill to have this effect. "I'm very sad about the judgment. A narrow view has been taken."

He said the law did not regulate insemination between husband and wife, and noted: "Had this woman been inseminated when her husband was unconscious or on a life support machine, there would have been no problem. Moreover, the man could have donated his kidneys, his lungs, his heart and every other organ without any informed

consent, but is not able to give his sperm to his wife. That seems ridiculous."

Yesterday Sir Stephen Brown, President of the High Court Family Division, accepted that his refusal to permit Mrs Blood to be artificially inseminated with her husband Stephen's sperm was for her "in the nature of a double bereavement," but the law required him to dismiss her application. Just hours earlier she had wept as Sir Stephen ruled that the law banned her from being artificially inseminated with sperm taken from Stephen as he lay in a coma in March last year.

The judge, who said the case was one which "stirred the emotions," also ruled that the authority was right to refuse the widow permission to take the sperm to Europe where treatment would be permit-

ted, even though it had a discretion to do so. But the judge refused to make a costs order against Mrs Blood, who remortgaged her house to fight the action, saying she had "done a public service" in seeking a court ruling.

Sperm samples were obtained from Mr Blood at his wife's request in March last year while he was on a life support machine at the Royal Hallamshire Hospital in Sheffield after going into a coma with bacterial meningitis. The samples remain stored at Jessop's Hospital, Sheffield, pending any possible appeal.

The court was told how Mrs Blood and her husband wrongly thought shortly before his death that she might be pregnant. They had been married four years and had begun to prepare a nursery.

Lord Lester of Herne Hill, QC, appearing for Mrs Blood, said she had been seeking to be faithful to his wishes as well as her own when she asked medical staff to take sperm samples as he lay in a coma. The couple had "so much wanted" a baby. They had discussed the possibilities of artificial insemination in some detail after reading an article on the subject.

Yesterday the judge said he was unable to accept the couple, "who lived a happy married life and greatly wished to have a family," had been receiving treatment together because the husband had been unconscious and unaware of the events taking place when the sperm samples were taken.

Ruth Deech, chairman of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority, said: "We have always

believed written consent is very clearly required by the law for excellent reasons. Clearly you don't want to be going to court over and over again. And you want the person who consents to know what they are doing and to be fully informed."

"One shouldn't forget the husband in this case was totally unconscious and was I think clinically dead when the sperm was taken from him... We must enable people to keep their dignity and their autonomy." The law was there not "just for the interests of doctors and in order to secure treatment in all circumstances" but also to protect patients, and above all the welfare of a future child. Regulation was "extremely important".

Law report, page 39

As of October 27:

First across the Chann

Gascoignes in hiding as star tries to escape dark side of his fame

By Shirley English
AND KEVIN MCCARRA

PAUL and Sheryl Gascoigne, married for just 14 weeks, were in hiding last night after reports that they had a fight at a top Scottish hotel. A friend said the couple were having heart-to-heart talks.

The reports came as the player's kudos for winning affection looked in danger of being overpowered again by a reputation for repugnant behaviour. He was facing disciplinary action after being sent off for kicking a player during Glasgow Rangers' clash with Ajax on Wednesday.

Gascoigne's move to Glasgow last year was an attempt to impose stability on a chaotic life. There was the adulation of a football-mad city with the escape of going fishing whenever he wanted. To this environment, though, he brought all the problems that continue to beset him.

The documentary shown on Channel 4 last week presented him, for the most part as an endearing figure, but it also recorded his drinking habits. Despite the reputation as a carouser, Gascoigne is teased by his teammates about his very low



Sheryl Gascoigne and her husband's public image: team-mates tease him about low alcohol tolerance

tolerance for alcohol. The impact of even a few glasses of wine can lead to disastrous consequences.

The latest allegations about his private life are that the England star assaulted his wife during a 15-minute argument at Gleneagles Hotel, Perthshire, where they were having a family break.

It was alleged that he became abusive over dinner on Sunday. His wife reportedly fled to her room, pursued by her husband, and they fought while the children slept in the next room.



Pictures of Mrs Gascoigne with facial bruises, a bandaged hand and her hand in a sling appeared in the *Daily Mirror* yesterday. Outside their home in Kilbarshan, Renfrewshire, a friend said yesterday: "They are together but they are not coming back tonight."

Mrs Gascoigne, 31, left Gleneagles by a side entrance at lunchtime after spending all morning in her room refusing to take calls. She had at least one of her children with her. The family were driven off at high speed

in their black Range Rover. Earlier in the day Gascoigne, 29, had left their home in Kilbarshan refusing to speak to reporters. He drove to Ibrox, the Rangers ground, where he was disciplined by the manager Walter Smith for the sending-off incident.

The Rangers' vice-chairman Donald Findlay, QC, said: "None of us here are going to get involved in somebody's private life."

The couple's stormy five-year relationship has often been lived out in newspaper headlines. In 1994 Gascoigne admitted he had beaten his then girlfriend over a two-year period.

Mrs Gascoigne was reported to have been taken to Glasgow's private Ross Hall Hospital for treatment after the alleged attack on Sunday, but the hospital refuse to confirm whether she had been a patient. Bruce Ritchie, duty manager at Gleneagles, said he had not heard about any disturbance involving the midfielder.

Neighbours at Mrs Gascoigne's home in Stanstead Abbots, Hertfordshire, said the couple had seemed happy on recent visits.

Fresh chance, page 52

Venables renews legal fight with Sugar

By John Goodbody

ALAN SUGAR, the chairman of Tottenham Hotspur, was served with a libel writ from Terry Venables yesterday — just after accepting £100,000 in libel damages from the former England football coach and his publishers.

Both sides claimed victory after the reading in the High Court of an agreed

settlement. The two men were business partners at the club before Mr Venables was sacked as chief executive in 1993. As Mr Sugar left, he was handed a writ relating to comments he made during a Channel 4 *Dispatches* documentary on Paul Gascoigne's transfer to Lazio. He said the writ would be "vigorously contested".

The settled libel action rejected 15 accusations made in Mr Venables' auto-

biography. Mr Venables and his publishers, Michael Joseph and Penguin Books, agreed to stop publishing the book, pulp all unsold copies and not to publish the untrue passages again. Mr Venables and Michael Joseph were also ordered to pay the costs up until March 1996 when £100,000 was paid into the High Court in damages. Mr Sugar handed the cheque to Great Ormond Street hospital.

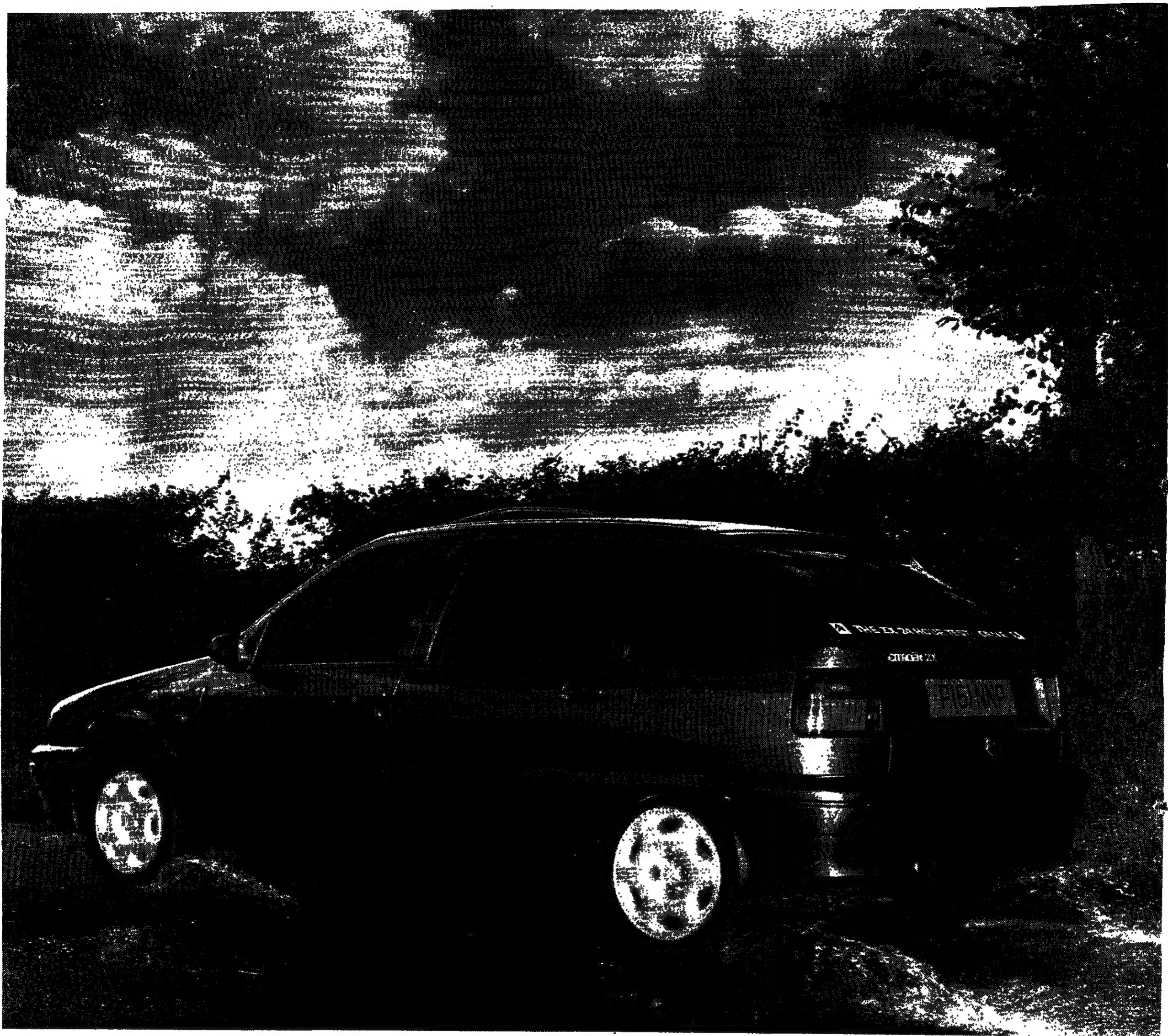
iel-last back.*

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FINAL PAYMENT	£5,498.50	NIL
TOTAL AMOUNT PAYABLE	£10,997	£10,997

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'I have lived with a sense of pain and loss at the centre of my life — we are just very happy', MP says

Short all smiles as she shows off her long-lost son

By JAMES LANDALE, PAUL WILKINSON AND ADRIAN LEE

A PROUD Clare Short yesterday showed off the son she reluctantly gave up for adoption 31 years ago.

The Labour frontbencher said losing him was the most "terrible decision" she had ever taken. "I have lived with a sense of pain and loss at the centre of my life ever since."

Ms Short did not once let go of Toby Graham as they appeared arm-in-arm before more than a hundred journalists and photographers in a park close to the House of Commons. The left-wing MP, known as a frequent critic of the media, beamed at the photographers.

Ms Short, 50, Labour's spokeswoman on Overseas Development, said Mr Graham, 31, a solicitor at the City firm of Taylor Joyson Garrett, was "lovely". She said: "As you can see, we are just very very happy." She joked that it was hard getting used to the name Toby. She gave him the name Benjamin.

Mr Graham, who has two daughters aged 24 and 12, was clearly bemused but said he was getting used to the attention. "It is all a bit bewildering, but I am very happy," he said. Meeting his natural mother after having children himself had made

him "complete". Ms Short said she had seen her two grandchildren but only in bed as they slept. "There is a definite family resemblance," she said.

In the *Birmingham Evening Mail*, Ms Short said that meeting her son was "like falling in love but less complicated". Miss Short and her husband of a few months were students when they decided to have their son adopted.

"Very soon afterwards we deeply regretted what we had done," she wrote. "We had happy times but the decision about Toby made it difficult for the marriage to work. The adoption was the most terrible decision I have ever made. I have lived with a sense of pain and loss at the centre of my life ever since."

She continued: "When the child was a little boy I used to dream that something would bring us back together. I wrote to social services to say that I was available. As soon as they introduced a system for registering one's availability I did so. And then I waited. He became 18 but nothing happened. Then 21 and again silence. I kept waiting as the years ticked by. A few weeks ago he got in touch."

Miss Short was a fresher

student at Keele University in the 1960s when she discovered she was pregnant. Her boyfriend, Andrew Moss, was in the second year of a philosophy degree.

They were married on September 17, 1964, five months before the baby was born. Miss Short was 18, her husband 22. The ceremony took place at St Teresa's Catholic Church, in Perry Barr, Birmingham.

Father Sean McTernan, who performed the ceremony, said yesterday: "I recall Miss Short's family because they were parishioners and came to church quite regularly."

The couple moved to Yorkshire for the birth at Harrogate hospital on February 21, 1965. Both Ms Short and Mr Moss transferred their degree courses to Leeds University.

The following year Ms Short was awarded a Wheeler Memorial Prize for the best first year examinations. With it went a five guinea cheque. She graduated in 1968 with an upper second class degree. Mr Moss graduated from Leeds in 1966 with a lower second class degree. The marriage lasted seven years and Mr Moss remarried in 1979.

Family reunions, page 20



Clare Short arm-in-arm with Toby Graham, the son she gave up for adoption in 1965 when she was a student. She said that the decision had been terrible

How spin-doctors got their hands on the good news

By JAMES LANDALE, POLITICAL REPORTER

WHEN Clare Short was reunited with Toby Graham four weeks ago, she knew she would have to tell the world about it. The only question was how.

Although no newspaper was about to publish the story, she knew that it would eventually leak out and wanted to make an announcement as soon as possible. People could not fail to notice the handsome 31-year-old she was seen arm-in-arm with at Westminster and she realised that questions would soon be asked.

She decided initially that she would give an interview to *The Independent*, through Suzanne Moore, a columnist on the newspaper, who is a close friend of Miss Short's long-standing assistant, Virginia Heywood. Ms Moore, who knew about the story two weeks ago and advised on how it should be released, interviewed Miss Short and Mr Graham last Tuesday.

Miss Short also decided to write an open letter to the *Birmingham Evening Mail*, to be published on the same day, so that her constituents in Ladywood could be informed.

Although she told Tony Blair as soon as the reunion took place four weeks ago, the news was known by only a handful of Labour insiders until late last week. Alistair Campbell, the Labour leader's chief press officer, was among

those kept in the dark. Miss Short knew, however, that Labour's spin-doctors, whom she recently denounced as the "dark forces" surrounding Mr Blair, would have to become involved. When Peter Mandelson, Labour's campaigns chief, heard of the plan last week, he approved. "He is always soft on stories about children," one insider said.

However, Miss Short came under pressure from some officials to give the story to a friendly tabloid newspaper as part of the party's strategy to keep on good terms with Fleet Street. She disagreed, stuck to her plan and decided herself when the story should break.

Although Labour officials were wary of pushing her too far, they still tried to take over the news management. Eventually they succeeded in persuading her that they needed to be briefed on the story so that they could inform journalists when it broke on Wednesday night.

They also insisted on a yesterday's photoshoot. A throng of Labour officials was on hand to control the event. One concern was Mr Graham's political views. He had been brought up a Tory and had once stood as a candidate for his local council. Although he has expressed his disillusionment with the Government, he was tight-lipped yesterday.

Reunion brings delight for some, but feelings of terror and guilt for others

By DOMINIC KENNEDY

GENERATIONS of unmarried mothers who were encouraged to have their babies adopted are still coping with the emotional trauma of being reunited with them as adults.

John Flood, who has helped to organise hundreds of reunions, said: "Many are delighted and many are horrified. Some are frightened, nervous or in trepidation."

The mothers believed that they would never see their children again because a "clean break" was encouraged. But in 1976 Parliament decided to make their confidential records available to the children as a legal right.

From the age of 18, adopted children can now demand to see their original birth certificates. The records can also include harsh descriptions of the unmarried mothers, such as "a very plain

girl", or "of common background". Those adopted before 1976 must be counselled before they are given their birth certificates, to warn them that their mothers may not know that they are traceable.

Women cannot prevent their identity from being disclosed to their natural children. If mothers want to trace their offspring they can contact Mr Flood's charity, the National Organisation for

Counselling Adoptees and their Parents, which will arrange for an intermediary to make an approach. The child has the right to refuse direct contact.

Fathers are harder to find. Few are named on the birth certificates and, usually, it depends on the mother deciding whether she is prepared to share the information with the child.

For the mothers, birthdays and Christmas are the hardest times

and many are desperate to know whether their children are still alive. "Each time there is a bit of trouble in the world, such as the Falklands, if their son is of the right age they worry," Mr Flood said. Older women are sometimes overwhelmed by the shame of a long-hidden secret being exposed.

Since adoption became controlled by law in 1927, 840,000 children have been adopted. The annual figure was about 6,000

until the Second World War, but rose to 21,000 in 1946 before falling back in the 1950s. The peak year was 1968, just as abortion was being legalised, when there were nearly 25,000 adoptions.

Sue Greenwood, of After Adoption, an agency in Manchester, said that the old "mother and baby homes" could be punitive. Women were sent far from their home towns so that nobody knew they were pregnant. They had to give

birth alone and were kept secluded from maternity wards to avoid upsetting other mothers. Typically they nursed the baby for the first six weeks, then returned home.

Few infants are given up for adoption today. In 1991 there were fewer than 900. Mothers are treated with more respect: some are invited to help to choose the kind of parents they would like for their baby. They may be asked to stay in contact through childhood.

Friday, 18 October
at 10:00 pm (British time)



How to call France from the United Kingdom

On 18 October 1996 at 10:00 pm British time, France will switch to a new telephone numbering plan. These changes anticipate for the ever increasing volume of telecommunications traffic in France (new services, fax, mobile phones, etc.). This new plan provides a reserve of numbers for several decades to come and marks a further step

towards harmonization with European directives and international recommendations. This New Telephone Numbering Plan applies to all numbers you call in France. To call a number in France from the United Kingdom, after 00 simply dial the country code 33, followed by a 9-digit number.

9 digits to call all numbers

To call the "provinces" (outside Paris and the Paris region)

Depending on the location, dial 2, 3, 4 or 5 in front of the current number, which remains the same.

The digits to be added are shown on the area code map and in the area code table.

For example: 00 33 20 ... becomes 00 33 3 20 ...

Add:	To the current number beginning with:	Add:	To the current number beginning with:	Add:	To the current number beginning with:
3	20	2	48	4	76
3	21	5	49	4	77
3	22	4	50	4	78
3	23	2	51	4	79
3	24	5	52	3	80
3	25	2	53	3	81
3	26	5	54	3	82
3	27	5	55	3	83
3	28	5	56	3	84
3	29	5	57	3	85
2	31	5	58	3	86
2	32	3	59	3	87
2	33	3	60	3	88
5	34	5	61	3	89
2	35	5	62	3	90
2	36	5	63	4	91
2	37	5	64	4	92
2	38	4	65	4	93
2	39	4	66	4	94
2	40	4	67	4	95
2	41	4	68	4	96
4	42	4	69	2	97
2	43	4	70	2	98
3	44	4	71	2	99
5	45	4	72		
5	46	4	73		
2	47	4	74		
		4	75		

Use valid at March 31, 1995

To call Paris and the Paris region

There are no changes. You will continue to dial the 9-digit number which begins with 1.

For example: 00 33 1 ...

To call mobile numbers

To call a mobile phone, dial 6 before the current 8-digit number, which remains the same.

For example: 00 33 01 ... becomes 00 33 6 01 ...

Add:	To the current number beginning with:	Add:	To the current number beginning with:
6	01	6	07
6	02	6	08
6	03	6	09
6	06		

Remember...

Don't forget to update your personal directory. If necessary, modify all French numbers (including speed dialing) stored in your equipment: telephones, fax machines, etc.

How to phone when you are in France

For all calls within France, dial 0 before the 9-digit number. The domestic long distance access code, 16, will no longer be used.

To call another country from France, dial 00 (instead of 19).

Head teacher's killer linked to Mills attack

مَكْزًا مِنَ الْأَصْلِ

Lib Dems prepare to vote against total handgun ban

By Jill Sherman and Arthur Leathley

THE chances of the Commons passing the Government's proposed gun laws increased last night after the Liberal Democrats indicated that most of their 26 MPs would support Michael Howard's plans.

Liberal Democrat sources suggested that the leadership and the majority of MPs will back the ban on 80 per cent of handguns, but they will allow their own MPs a free vote on the issue. Senior party figures recognise that some of their nine Scottish MPs may wish to back a total ban, proposed by Tony Blair, in response to strong pressure from the Dunblane lobby.

The Government announced on Wednesday that it planned to ban ownership of almost all handguns, but that 22 pistols would be exempted if they were kept at licensed gun clubs "under conditions of most stringent security". Robert MacLennan, the Liberal Democrat party president, said he would back the government line "unless there is evidence brought forward before the committee stage that banning 80 per cent of guns doesn't go far enough".

The issue of gun control sparked the most bitter debate of the party's annual conference last month, when supporters of a total ban were accused by one party member

The handgun ban should be complete by February or March, the Home Office said. Officials are working quickly to draft a Bill and ministers hope that legislation will be in place by Christmas. Owners will be given two months to take up to 160,000 weapons to police stations. They may be offered a flat-rate compensation or a market valuation. The Home Office changed its position to say that dealers will be offered cash for their stock, based on market value.

of "grave-robbing" votes from the children of Dunblane. The conference decided by a majority of only nine votes to reject a total ban on private handguns but supported restrictions, allowing single-shot handguns for shooting.

The eight Ulster Unionists, who could be pivotal in the Commons decision, may also be allowed a free vote, although few are likely to go for the all-out ban. The leadership is reserving its position, but sources say that the Unionists are unlikely to make a political issue out of handguns. Many are expected to abstain.

While the figures now appear to favour the Government, despite its fragile major-

ity, Labour is confident that the growing lobby for an all-out ban, particularly in Scotland, could get more MPs to back tougher restrictions. The public mood could also sway several backbenchers.

Four Tory MPs — Hugh Dykes, Robert Hughes, Terry Dicks and David Mellor — have already indicated that they would back Labour. They estimate that up to eight more might follow suit.

Mr Dykes, MP for Harrow East, told ITN's lunchtime news that it would be a great mistake if the issue became a party matter. "The Government will regret that because there is a very big national constituency out there that will not be satisfied with anything less than a total ban."

Another Tory, John Carlisle (Luton North), who lists one of his recreations as shooting, said the proposals went too far and criticised the parents of the 16 children murdered by Hamilton for using "so much emotion and hysteria. It has taken them away from the basic issue."

Labour recognises that it is much more likely to win support for a total ban if the Government allows a free vote, as several Tory waverers would be brought in line if a three-line whip was applied.

Philip Howard, page 22



John Slough examines a semi-automatic 9mm Spitfire made in his factory at Hereford, which at one time was making 700 pistols a year

Gunmaker will have to close after 20 years

By Stewart Tandler

WITHIN hours of the gun-ban announcement, two workers in John Slough's handgun factory at Hereford were made redundant. Yesterday Mr Slough told his bank manager, subcontractors and customers that he was closing down.

Mr Slough, 49, has been in business for more than 20 years as a manufacturer of semi-automatic handguns. He produces customised

weapons costing up to £2,000 each. A member of the City Livery Gunmakers' Company, he has made parts for the Queen's collection of handguns.

As customers rang yesterday to see if he would buy back their weapons, Mr Slough said he had hoped to pass his business down to his 22-year-old son Adam. "But there is no future in it. It will put us out of business. There is no doubt about it. We can't work for the export market because that was killed off by the Government

some years ago over the EC rules."

Mr Slough is pessimistic about compensation and said it would have to reflect the years of research and investment behind his business. His only hope now is that he might be able to reopen somewhere abroad. The gun world was paying the price for the failure of police to take away Thomas Hamilton's guns, he said.

Mr Slough began his working life as a locksmith, became interested in shooting and decided he could make

better guns than the ones he was buying. At one time the firm was making about 700 pistols a year.

Many shooters were used to the larger calibre guns now banned and were unlikely to change to 22s, he said. "It's the end of pistol shooting in this country after 500 years." Like every other owner, Mr Slough will have to surrender his own collection, including gold-plated Colts, but first he will cut them into pieces so they can never be used again.

Howard feared shooters would go underground

By Richard Ford, Home Correspondent

THE Government stopped short of seeking a total ban on ownership of handguns because it feared a minority of shooters would be prepared to operate "underground".

Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, was anxious to prevent a growth in the illegal use of handguns by rogue elements who faced the destruction of their sport. Home Office sources said yesterday that Mr Howard wanted to ensure that there was still an outlet at registered clubs for shooters.

Even though the possession of 22 calibre handguns will be remain legal under the plans

announced by the Government, thousands of gun clubs are expected to close as a result of the sweeping changes to gun laws.

The British Shooting Sports Council said last night: "Target-shooting is largely an urban tradition. A lot of gun clubs are linked to factories in heavy industrial areas. Traditional pistol-shooting is a sport enjoyed by men in large urban areas. Historically, 22 shooting developed as a working man's sport because it could be carried out in small ranges in urban areas."

During the past 25 years there has been a big increase

in the use of handguns for sporting purposes. Police officers are the largest single occupational group in pistol-shooting as a sport.

The British Association for Shooting and Conservation, which comprises game shooters, stalkers and wildfowling, has 8.6 per cent of its members in socio-economic Class A; 27 per cent in Class B; 28.3 per cent in Class C; 26.7 per cent in Class D; 7.5 per cent in Class E and 1.9 per cent in Class F.

Gun-control campaigners and Dunblane parents are to press the Government to allow MPs a free vote on legislation on the matter next month, in the belief that this would lead to a complete ban on handguns (Shirley English writes).

Yesterday, Rosemary Hunter, of the Snowdrop Petition, said that if the Government used the whip to force through laws allowing the use of 22 calibre guns the campaign would use the approaching general election to bring about change. Rather than fielding a candidate against Michael Forsyth, the Scottish Secretary, they were more likely to support Labour and the Scottish Nationalists. Both parties have backed calls for a complete ban.

In the meantime, the campaigners hoped to work out a way forward with sympathetic MPs, such as David Mellor, on both government and opposition benches.


Enthusiasts face curbs abroad, except in US

THE new laws will make it difficult for British handgun enthusiasts to practise their sport abroad, other than in the United States.

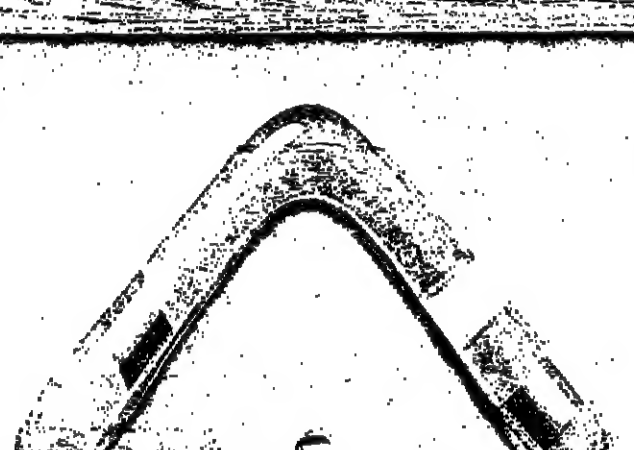
The Government's proposals do not cover Northern Ireland, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man, but the latter is expected to adopt them. Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland already have tougher gun laws than Britain: nobody other than the police or defence forces can own a handgun in the Republic. Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ire-

land Secretary, is examining the Cullen report to see whether any of its recommendations should be adopted.

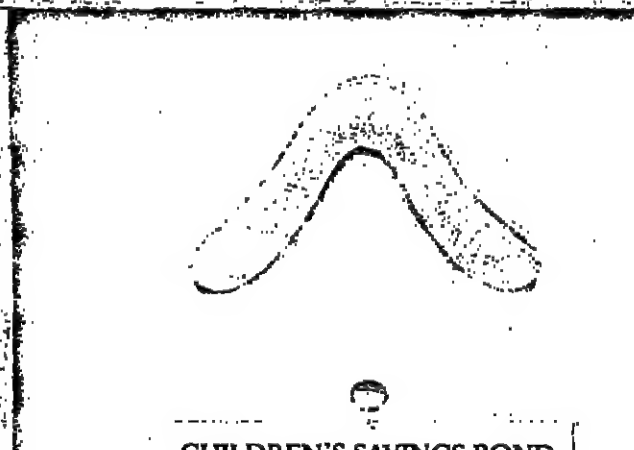
Heavier calibre handguns are not banned in other European Union states, but it will not be possible for a British resident to buy or keep one for use during a visit. All EU members refuse to allow anyone to bring in a gun in without a licence issued by the owner's country of residence. Since it will no longer be legal to own handguns, no British resident will have such a licence.



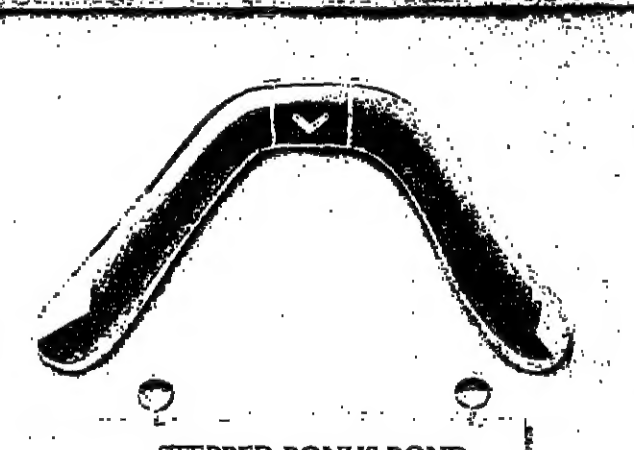
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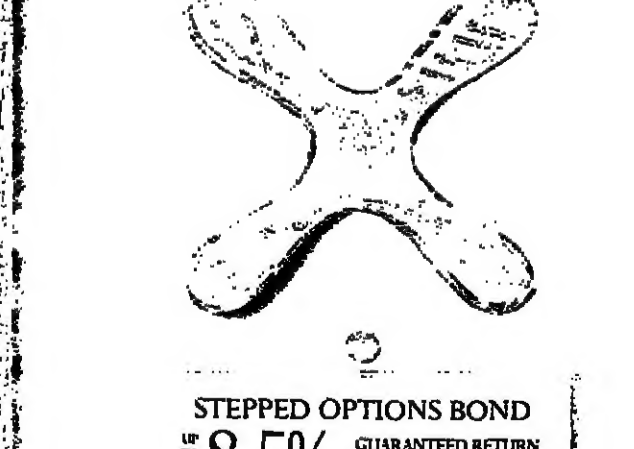
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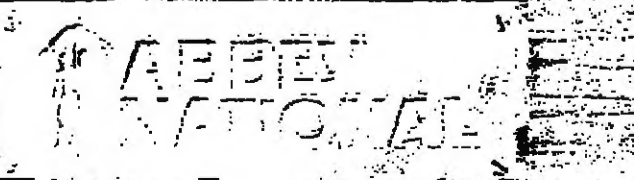


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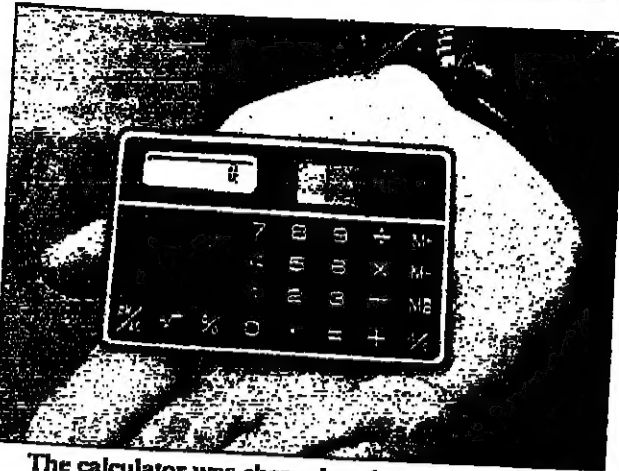
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Solicitor condemns 'unnecessary' case that could leave taxpayer with bill for £100,000

Police officer cleared of stealing £1.50 calculator

By TIM JONES

A POLICE officer was cleared yesterday of stealing a £1.50 calculator. His solicitor criticised the way the case had been handled, at a cost to the taxpayer of up to £100,000. After a three-day trial at Leeds Crown Court the jury found Constable Andrew Whitfield not guilty of stealing the calculator from Dewsbury police station in West Yorkshire. His solicitor, Damian Kelly, said after the verdict: "This has been a most unfortunate case, resulting in a professional police officer with 12 years' service having to undergo the long and arduous ordeal of a crown court trial. It is all the more unfortunate that the first trial in February had to be halted as a result of unfair and prejudicial remarks being made by a senior police officer. The Crown Prosecution Service decided to have a retrial, despite protestations by my firm that a further trial would cause additional stress to my client and unnecessary expense to the taxpayer. Those protests fell on deaf ears. The vindication by the jury today merely serves to confirm what PC Whitfield has said from the outset: that he is innocent of this charge and he is not a thief."



The calculator was cheap, but the case was costly

Mr Whitfield, 30, of Lupset, Wakefield, said he was looking forward to going back to work after being suspended for 14 months. "The result today is obviously a happy one," he said. He will meet the Assistant Chief Constable of the West Yorkshire force to discuss the lifting of his suspension and other matters arising from the case. The officer, who followed his father into the force 12 years ago, was suspended, on

his full salary of £21,000, after a video camera installed in the police station filmed him taking the calculator. He said he had borrowed it to check the accounts for the force football team, of which he was secretary, and had forgotten to return it.

Simon Jackson, for the defence, told the court: "Taking something away without asking somebody may be selfish, but it is not dishonest. It was stupid, and he accepts that, but it was not an offence."

Judge Norman Jones, QC, summing up, said: "Would a police officer with the family background — his father having been in the force, he having been in the force for years — put everything in jeopardy by stealing a £1.50 calculator?"



PC Whitfield and his wife, Carrie: he is looking forward to returning to work

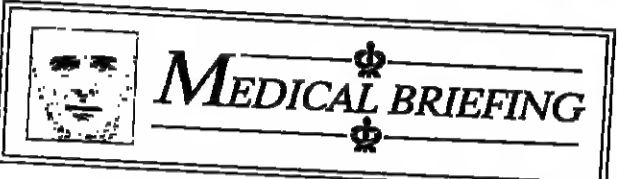
Student killed by volcano blameless

A STUDENT was killed when he was showered by boulders in a volcanic eruption in the Philippines, an inquest was told yesterday.

Julian Green, 21, who was studying medicine in London, and whose family are from Uppingham, Leicestershire, was an experienced traveller. He had climbed Mount Canlon, on the island of Negros, with his friend Gordon Cole during a break in a diving expedition. They had just begun their descent when the seemingly placid volcano erupted.

A statement from Mr Cole, read at the inquest in Kettering, Northamptonshire, said that after the eruption subsided he found Mr Green 100 metres from the crater, with a broken leg and arm. Two men carried him down to the forest, where Mr Cole nursed his dying friend for two hours. The inquest was told that Mr Green had died from multiple injuries. The coroner, Anne Pember, said his death was unforeseeable and that he had behaved sensibly. Verdict: accidental death.

Inoculation scare stories unfounded



Dr Thomas Stuttford

SOME mothers have been so frightened by scare stories about children's booster inoculations against measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) that they have refused to let their children be vaccinated. The Department of Health launched a campaign a fortnight ago to immunise a million and a quarter children between the ages of four and six but General Practitioners, a journal for family doctors, reports that not only are some mothers rejecting the Chief Medical Officer's advice totally but many have needed long discussions with their doctors before taking part in the programme. Parents have been particularly worried about the suggestion that measles — and therefore the vaccine — could be a cause of Crohn's disease, a most unpleasant inflammatory disease of the intestines. The Department of Health has reassured mothers that there has been only one piece of research linking measles to Crohn's disease and that

attempts to repeat that research elsewhere have failed. Another fear is that vaccination might cause brain damage. Careful analysis of the statistics shows that the chance of a child suffering from a vaccination side-effect causing transitory cerebral symptoms is no more than one in a million. Even in those cases this very rare complication has never led to permanent brain damage. It has been shown that all the minor side-effects of the MMR immunisation which are occasionally reported are after the first injections are less common after the booster. Infection with measles, mumps or rubella can give rise to long-lasting or even permanent damage, measles in particular can be lethal. The campaign to relegate to history the misery these infections can cause is humane and sensible and does not deserve the adverse press it has received. If parents are still worried they can of course see their own GP.

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Widow denies marrying artist, 96, for his money

BY KATHRYN KNIGHT

THE bride was a 27-year-old American journalist who had problems getting a visa to stay in Britain. The groom was her great-uncle, a 96-year-old artist best known for his Cornish coastal scenes. He died six months after their wedding.

Yesterday a court was asked to examine the realities of the marriage as the widow, Diane Lavenstein, sought to win ownership of 60 of her late husband's paintings and defend herself against accusations that she was a gold-digger.

She claims that watercolours, oils, sketches and a First World War diary by Cyril Lavenstein, a member of the Royal Academy, had been taken without permission by her husband's friend Robert Lawford, and is suing him for their return.

But at the High Court in Birmingham, she faced accusations that she neglected and mistreated her elderly partner, marrying him only for convenience and financial



Diane Lavenstein and Robert Lawford: she claims he took some of her husband's paintings and effects

gain. She continued to date a twice-divorced, middle-aged boyfriend after her marriage to the artist, the court was told. Giving evidence, Mrs Lavenstein said that she had written to her uncle since her early twenties and first came to England in April 1982, staying with him for about six months. After that, she returned on several occasions.



She told Judge Black that they had a "very special relationship" and that she had helped to care for him, shopping, cleaning and preparing meals. In January 1986, after problems getting a visa to stay in Britain, she married Mr Lavenstein. She said: "I married Cyril on compassionate grounds because he needed me and it also allowed me to

remain in England." She said she had nursed him through ill-health, and cared for him as an invalid. Before their marriage, she had formed a relationship with another man, Paul Reynolds, whom she had known since November 1984, and used to meet him in pubs.

She admitted that her husband was aware of the relationship and was upset by it. "I think it was problematic for him. He did not think Paul was good enough for me."

Mr Lavenstein had gained wider recognition following an exhibition at Birmingham Art Gallery two years before his death. After the exhibition, she claimed, Mr Lawford started to visit their home. "On Christmas Eve 1984, I remember Cyril coming down the stairs and telling me three of his paintings were missing. I asked him who had visited recently."

She said they suspected Mr Lawford may have taken them. Later she had a meeting with a Midlands art collector, who told her that Mr Lawford had acquired a large number



Cyril Lavenstein with two of his paintings. His widow denies marrying him for gain and then neglecting him

of her late husband's paintings.

David Stockill, for Mrs Lavenstein, said it would be claimed that she did not feed her husband properly and kept the temperature of the

house low. She strongly denied the allegations.

Cross-examining Mrs Lavenstein, Rex Tidd, QC, for Mr Lawford, said she had married for money and a visa: "You had two powerful

motives for staying on the right side of Cyril Lavenstein.

The first is you saw a substantial inheritance. The second motive was to be allowed to stay in the United Kingdom." He read a list of entries in

Mr Lavenstein's diary, detailing cash payments from "Robert" of between £250 and £550 in 1985, which he claimed were payments for the disputed paintings. The hearing continues.

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HAVANNA UPHOLSTERY COLLECTION

Fresh judgment on bread defeats half-baked rivals

WEEKEND SHOPPING

SMALL bakers have won a victory over supermarket giants threatening their livelihood. The trading standards officers' co-ordinating body, Lacors, has decided that stores can no longer advertise their in-store bakery loaves as "fresh baked" if they are cooked from frozen pre-formed bread.

Many big stores have been claiming that part-baked bread which is merely finished in store is "fresh baked". Trading standards officers will be advising them to amend "misleading" claims where loaves are not wholly baked in the store on the day they are sold.

Advertised promotions include:

Asda: fresh whole chicken £4.49 for 2.2kg, boneless pork leg £2.99 kg, frozen breaded haddock fillets £2.96 for 600g, all English apples 38p lb.

Budgens: fresh pork chops £4.89 kg, fresh whole chicken £3.99 for 1.9kg, chunky breaded plaice £2.49 for 320g. Co-op: fresh braising steak £3.50 kg, fresh whole chicken £3.79 for 1.6 kg, fresh minced pork £1.29 for 400g, turkey escalopes £1.59 for 283g, boned kippers £1.99 a pair.

Harrods: chicken and chestnut mousse £1.70 per 100g, asparagus and mushroom soufflé £2.25 each, venison burgers 75p each.

Leeland: mushroom and garlic filled chicken £1.59 for two portions, Chinese-style chicken drumsticks £1.69 for 507g, Marks & Spencer: liver and bacon meal for one £1.49, steak and kidney pie £2.49, crumpets 29p for eight.

Morrisons: pork chops £1.49 lb, rump steak £2.99 lb, cod fillet £1.99 lb, oysters 35p each, Sainsbury's: fresh fillet steak £13.88 kg, chicken fillets £3.75 for four, whole lamb legs £5.49 kg, satsumas 49p lb.

Somerfield: whole/half legs of lamb £1.95 lb, lean minced beef £3.25 kg, lamb cutlets £5.48 kg, mature vegetarian cheddar £1.88 lb.

Tesco: lamb loin chops £7.49 kg, braising steak £4.39 kg, cod fillet £1.85 lb, whole mackerel 79p lb, mixed peppers 99p for 500g, Casselman plums 59p lb.

Waitrose: fresh poussin £2.39 for 800g, six chicken breast fillets £6.95, small pumpkin 29p, spaghetti squash 29p lb, asparagus £2.19 for 250g.

ROBIN YOUNG

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Moscow court makes example of British girl found guilty of drug smuggling

Teenager given six years in Russian labour camp

By RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW AND STAFF REPORTERS

A RUSSIAN judge sentenced a British teenager to six years in a labour camp yesterday after she was found guilty of smuggling cocaine through Moscow airport.

Karen Henderson, 18, remained calm behind the bars of a steel cage in the packed Moscow courtroom as the sentence was passed. She is the first British citizen to be jailed in the new Russia.

Miss Henderson is expected to serve her term at a prison labour camp for foreigners near Yavass, about three hundred miles southeast of the capital.

At the end of a three-day trial, the presiding judge, Sergei Lebedev, and two magistrates took just one hour to arrive at their decision. In the judgment they said that they did not believe her claim that she was unaware that her suitcase contained 10lb of cocaine when she arrived in Moscow on February 6 in transit on a flight from Havana in Warsaw.

The judge said that, due to the seriousness of the offence, she would serve six years for smuggling and three years for possession of narcotics, to run concurrently. He added that the court had been lenient with her because of her age, the fact that this was her first offence and on account of her good behaviour during the eight months she had spent in a Moscow remand prison.

Because Justice Lebedev was speaking in Russian and his ruling was translated only when he had finished. Then the impact of his verdict took time to sink in. The Henderson family refused to talk to



Karen Henderson behind bars in court as the judge pronounces her guilty of drug smuggling

major transit point and has attracted many traffickers because of its poor border security. There is a feeling in Moscow that an example should be made of convicted drug traffickers in an effort to scare off other potential smugglers.

Henderson is expected to serve her sentence with two Dutch girls at a women's labour camp in Mordovia, an autonomous republic in central Russia, where many Soviet-era prison camps remain in operation.

Although the camp is said to be clean and efficiently run, living conditions, particularly food and accommodation, are reportedly very poor by comparison with Western prisons. A pregnant British teenager jailed for drug smuggling in Morocco after her father tipped off police had her prison sentence halved on appeal today. A judge in Casablanca ruled that Sally Griffiths, 18, who is three months pregnant, and her co-smuggler, Claire Martin, 20, both from Colchester, should have their sentences cut from five to two-and-a-half years.

They were, however, ordered to pay £10,000 after customs officials argued the original £400 fines amounted to less than the sale value of the smuggled drugs.

reporters after the sentence was passed, but Ian Kydd, the British Consul-General, said that they were likely to appeal against the verdict in the coming week.

Although the Russian legal authorities are unlikely to acquit her, they are sensitive about the publicity her case has received and genuinely concerned that someone so young should be incarcerated for so long.

Nevertheless, a constant theme raised by the prosecution during the trial was the threat to Russia posed by the sudden influx of hard drugs. The country, which five years ago had hardly any drug abuse, has now become a



Karen's sister Dawn falls to her knees in court and is comforted by her cousin after the sentence of six years in a labour camp is translated for the family

Teacher in hitman case jailed on appeal

By A STAFF REPORTER

A WOMAN who walked free after being convicted of trying to hire a hitman was jailed for four years by the Court of Appeal yesterday.

The court held that the two-year suspended sentence passed on Sheelagh Costaine in May was unduly lenient. Costaine, 39, a Sunday school teacher from Chesham, Buckinghamshire, was not in court, but was expected to surrender to custody last night.

The appeal judges ruled that the sentence passed by Mr Justice Sedley at Reading Crown Court, after Costaine was convicted of soliciting to murder, was "plainly out of line" with legal precedent. "At the heart of this offence lies an intention that another human being shall be killed," Lord Justice Rose said.

Costaine faced financial ruin when John Tunstall, an agent she had employed to look after property in Italy, took steps to enforce a £50,000 court judgment against her for unpaid commission and legal costs. She feared that she would be forced to sell her home, where she lived with her disabled mother.

She was introduced to a small-time criminal and asked him to finish off Mr Tunstall "for good". The man went to the police, who arranged for an undercover detective to meet Costaine. She was filmed offering him £8,000 to have Mr Tunstall "mugged, shot, killed".

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All trace of Wests' home is removed

Contractors finished demolishing 25 Cromwell Street, Gloucester, the former home of Frederick and Rosemary West, yesterday. A thick concrete cap was left over the site after every trace of the house was cleared and crushed to dust in a ten-day operation costing the city council about £27,000.

Local residents and relatives of the nine young women and girls whose bodies were found in the house will be consulted about what to build in its place.

Mugger sentence

A mugger kicked in the groin by a woman passenger on the Tube was sentenced to 2½ years' detention. Mowled Hussein, 17, of Willesden, northwest London, admitted attempted robbery at a trial last month.

European prize

The £5,000 Prix de l'Europe, awarded in the past by the Council of Europe to cities such as Vienna and The Hague, has been won by the Wansbeck district of Northumberland for its close ties with continental towns.

Jet bail refused

A man accused of endangering the safety of an aircraft over the Atlantic was refused bail by Manchester magistrates. James Mullahy, 37, from Florida, is alleged to have fought with crew and passengers on the flight.

Model woman

Helen Sharman, Britain's first astronaut, unveiled a waxwork model of herself at the London Planetarium. The replica is dressed in a copy of the Russian space suit worn by Ms Sharman, 33, on her eight-day mission in 1991.

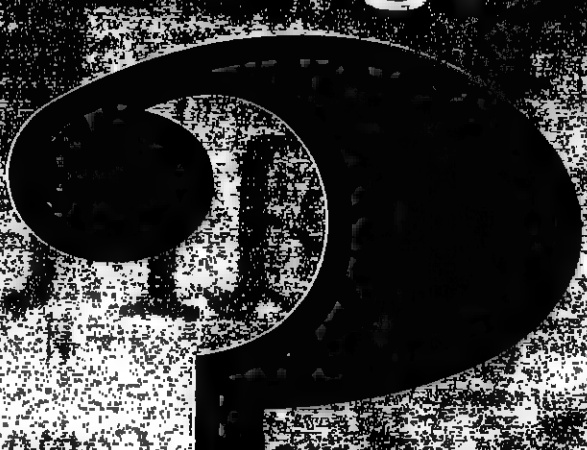
Ferris wheel sale

Britain's largest Ferris wheel, which stands at the Dreamland fun park in Margate, Kent, is for sale. The park wants to replace the 185ft diameter wheel, which was built in 1980, with a high-tech ride.

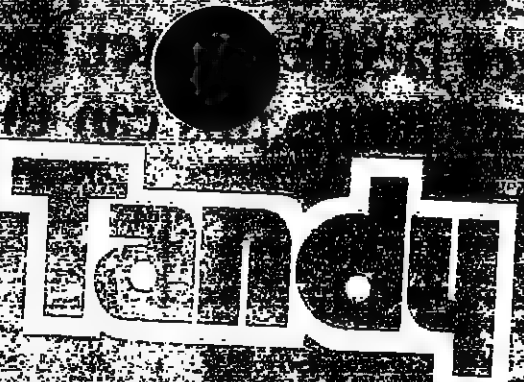
The reel thing

A rare fly-fishing reel has fetched a world-record £18,700. The Hardy Original Perfect brass trout reel, made in the early 1900s and one of only two known to exist, went to an anonymous bidder at Angling Auctions of London.

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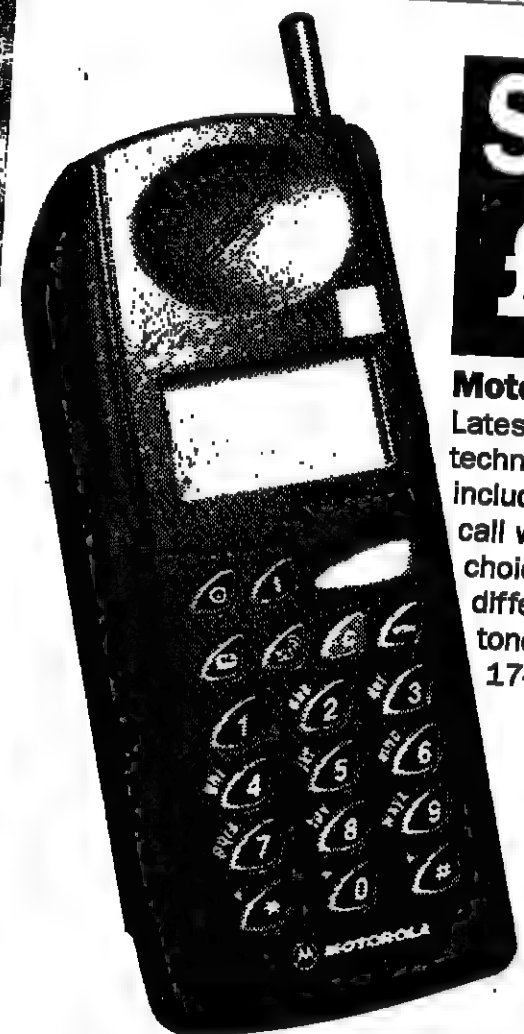
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A challenge to the President of the European Commission from the Referendum Party.

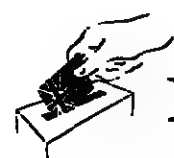
On Tuesday a spokesman for the European Commission described an advertisement by the Referendum Party as "...a grossly distorted picture of the role and powers of the Commission". (Evening Standard, 15th October 1996.)

The Referendum Party totally rejects this accusation.

Sir James Goldsmith challenges Jacques Santer, President of the European Commission, to a live debate on British television. Only by doing this can the issues raised by the advertisement be fully debated, and the truth publicly established.

We look forward to Mr. Santer's reply.

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This advertisement prepared by Banks Hoggins O'Shea on behalf of the publisher: the Referendum Party, 1st Floor, Dean Bradley House, 52 Horseferry Road, London SW1P 2AF.

At Fayed-
challenges
citizenship
judgment

Al Fayed's challenge citizenship judgment

By RUSSELL JENKINS

THE Home Secretary's refusal to say why he rejected the Al Fayed brothers' bid for British citizenship was a breach of natural justice that left a slur on their reputations, the Court of Appeal was told yesterday.

Egyptian-born Mohamed Al Fayed, the Harrods chairman, and his brother Ali claim that only full disclosure of the reasons behind Michael Howard's decision can dispel widespread speculation that it was "political and legally improper".

The brothers launched their latest challenge before Lord Woolf, the Master of the Rolls, and are appealing against a High Court judgment for judicial review.

Lord Woolf, who reserved judgment, said the Al Fayed's application for naturalisation represented an exceptional case. He said that Parliament had allowed the Home Secretary to give or withhold reasons for refusal, but he was under a duty to be fair.

Michael Beloff, QC, for the brothers, said that at no time were they informed of the existence of any concerns at the Home Office, nor were they informed of any facts that might have justified refusal. Accordingly they had no opportunity to answer any charges and this constituted a breach of "elementary natural justice".

The decision was particularly damaging to such high-profile businessmen, he said. It might lead other individuals or countries to which they intended to travel to suspect that the refusals "cast doubt on their good character".

He said the refusal to give reasons was manifestly unfair. "The Secretary of State's response is again: Parliament has so ordained. This too is at issue. Who can know whether or not justice was done in the case of the Al Fayed brothers? They believe it was not. What is certain is that justice was not done."

The Crown argued that the Home Secretary legally exercised his powers under the 1981 British Nationality Act, which excluded any duty to give reasons in any of the 4,000 or so applications turned down each year.



Bishop is banned after blessing gay marriage

By ROBIN YOUNG

THE first British bishop to admit homosexuality has been told that he can no longer play an episcopal role in Anglican services in his diocese. The Rt Rev Derek Rawcliffe, 74, honorary assistant bishop of Ripon, North Yorkshire, has had his commission withdrawn after blessing same-sex marriages, which are not recognised by the Church of England.

Bishop Rawcliffe was formerly Bishop of Glasgow in the Scottish Episcopal Church and volunteered his services as an unpaid assistant to the Bishop of Ripon, the Rt Rev David Young, when he retired in 1991. He admitted his homosexuality in an interview on *Newsnight* last year and in August he declared his support for a campaign to lower the age of homosexual consent to 14.

Bishop Young, who refuses to ordain active homosexuals, held two meetings with Bishop Rawcliffe last month. He said yesterday: "It



With his late wife, Susan. They married in 1977.

is clear to me that my understanding of the episcopal role in this diocese and Bishop Derek's understanding cannot be reconciled. It is therefore right that he should cease to have my commission."

A spokesman for Church House in London said yesterday: "This is not a disagreement over homosexuality. It

is about canonical authority and liturgy. There is no canonical authority for the services at which Bishop Derek gave his blessing."

Bishop Rawcliffe is still able to participate as a priest, at the invitation of parish priests, and may offer his services as an honorary assistant to bishops in neighbouring dioceses.

Last night Bishop Rawcliffe, who is acting as an honorary assistant priest at St Aidan's in Harehills, Leeds, said: "I disagree with the Bishop that I conducted a public blessing of a homosexual couple. I believe that if you have friends round to your house and conduct a service there, then that is private. The Bishop argues that any service you conduct in the name of God is public, and that is where we disagree."

He said he was continuing to take services. "The decision to relieve me of my post as an honorary assistant bishop has not altered my views on homosexuality in the Church."

How catching a cold could be the cure for cancer

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

AMERICAN scientists have shown that one day we may catch a cold to cure a cancer. They have found that a mutant form of an adenovirus — a type of virus that can cause mild cold symptoms — can attack and destroy cancer cells while leaving healthy cells unharmed.

Preliminary trials of the treatment to test toxicity have been started at the University of Texas and the University of Glasgow, on patients with cancers of the head and neck. In Texas, 12 patients have been given injections of the virus, with no side-effects.

In more than half of all cancers, a gene called p53 is either deleted or impaired. Its normal role is to defend cells against viral infections or changes that could lead to cancer. So any failure is damaging. Worse still, tumours that are caused by a lack of functional p53 are very resistant to drugs or radiation treatment.

A team from Onyx Pharmaceuticals, in Richmond, California, report in *Science* that they have found a way of

selectively attacking these p53-deficient cells, using a virus. When an adenovirus attacks a healthy cell, it disables p53 by producing a protein, called E1B, that binds to it.

The Onyx team, led by Dr Frank McCormick, used a mutant form of the virus incapable of making E1B. This meant that it could not disable the p53 in healthy cells, and was unable to infect them.

Tumour cells without p53, however, proved vulnerable to the virus, which entered and killed them.

The team injected the virus into human cervical tumours that were being grown in mice. The result was that all the tumours shrank, and in one experiment, 60 per cent of them disappeared. The Onyx team believes that if it can get the virus to just 2 per cent of

the cancer cells, it will spread to the rest of the tumour and kill it.

Ordinary adenovirus was also capable of killing cancer cells, but lacked the selectivity of the mutant virus. This ties in with work published earlier this year by a team from Indiana University which found that an injected adenovirus was capable of curing mice carrying human breast cancer.

One problem with the uses of viruses in this way is that they provoke a response from the body's immune system. Many people will have already been infected by adenoviruses, so that they may have immune systems primed to knock them out before they can spread through a tumour.

The team hopes that the mutant adenovirus may have an advantage in this respect, because it is copied only inside tumour cells. And if it did provoke an immune response, it might be directed against the tumour cells themselves, increasing the rate at which they were killed.

Study isolates chemical that makes smoking a fatal pursuit

THE "smoking gun" linking cigarettes to lung cancer may finally have been found, Nigel Hawkes writes. The link had previously been established by epidemiology — comparing the health of smokers with that of non-smokers.

Now an American team has produced evidence that the chemical culprit is benzo(a)pyrene diol epoxide, known as BPDE. This substance is produced from

benzo(a)pyrene, a constituent in tobacco smoke, by metabolism in the body.

Using human cells in culture, the team examined the damage BPDE did to a crucial gene called p53, which stops cells turning cancerous. About 60 per cent of human lung cancers show mutations to this tumour-suppressor gene. The damage caused by BPDE is exactly the same as that seen in cases of lung cancer.

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Ten thousand join Referendum Party after £1m publicity campaign culminating on eve of conference

Goldsmith challenges Santer to debate on Europe

By Andrew Pierce
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

SIR JAMES GOLDSMITH today challenges Jacques Santer to a live television debate about Britain's place in Europe. The billionaire financier has issued the invitation to the President of the European Commission in a series of full-page newspaper advertisements on the eve of the Referendum Party's first national conference, in Brighton.

Sir James, who is said to have spent more than £1 million this week on advertisements, will renew the challenge in his speech tomorrow to an estimated audience of 4,200 people in the conference centre used by Labour and the Conservatives in previous years.

Mr Santer is unlikely to take up the offer. A spokesman said: "The President believes that the British debate about Europe and Britain's participation in the EU is a British debate and should remain British." Earlier this week the European Commission described the advertisements as "grossly distorted".

Sir James responds in an advert in today's *Times*: "Only by doing this can the issues raised by the advertisement be fully debated and the truth publicly established."

This week's publicity campaign has led to 10,000 people registering with the party, taking the total to more than 50,000 for the first time. A further 2,000 have applied to be candidates at the general election. The party has announced the names of 187 candidates and will contest 600 constituencies, including those of most members of the Cabinet and Shadow Cabinet.

The Referendum Party has already announced the name of candidates in 116 Tory seats, including 20 marginals. They include Hazel Grove, majority 929; Aberdeen South, majority



Sir James canvassing support in Putney recently. He said a live television debate would establish the truth

1,517; Bolton West, majority 1,079; Edinburgh West, defended by Lord James Douglas-Hamilton, the Scottish Office Minister, majority 579; and David Ashby's Leicestershire North-West seat, majority 579.

The Referendum Party could also pose some problems for Labour, with candidates standing in Ipswich, where the party's majority is 265, and Birmingham Yardley, where the margin is 162.

The cost of the campaign is not borne by Sir James alone. Wealthy supporters, such as John Aspinall, the zoo owner, and Lord McAlpine of West Green, the former Conservative Party deputy chairman and treasurer, have given generously. Ordinary members also make donations, according to what they can afford.

Lord McAlpine said last night: "There is a great momentum towards a referendum. The conference will be like the last day of the Tory party conference with a lot more thrown in."

"My friends in the Conservative Party remain just that: friends who respect and understand my decision — including Mrs Thatcher."

Banks, Hoggins and O'Shea, the advertising agency which devised the Tell Sid campaign for British Gas in the 1980s, has devised a poster for the Referendum Party which will be unveiled in Brighton tomorrow before its release across the country.

Disaffected Mail readers who will lose their deposits

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

Sir James Goldsmith can wound but he cannot kill. The Referendum Party will not win any seats at the next election and all its candidates will lose their deposits, but the party could make a difference to the result in a handful of seats since its support comes overwhelmingly from former Tories.

The record of single-issue parties created and financed by wealthy men has been poor. After an initial burst of interest, they quickly fade and their leaders — mainly in the same authoritarian populist mould — turn to other issues. Beaverbrook's Empire Free Trade Crusade was seen off by Baldwin after a few squalls, while Oswald Mosley's New Party attracted the disaffected from all parties as well as half a dozen sitting MPs, but saved only three deposits in the 1931 election.

The Referendum Party may be different because of the prominence of the European issue. Moreover, Sir James has said he will match the spending of the main parties, up to £20 million, and has placed double-page advertisements in national newspapers this week. According to an NOP poll in the *Sunday Times* in March, 30 per cent of the public said they might support a group such as the Referendum Party. Yet this question is not a good guide since a minority of voters often say they might consider supporting another party.

A better pointer may be the polls of voting intentions regularly carried out by MORI for *The Times*. Since the spring, MORI has included the Referendum Party on the list of parties presented to those interviewed. The Referendum Party has attracted less than 1 per cent support each month, MORI has aggregated its voting intention

Sir James will host a gala dinner at the Grand Hotel in the resort on Friday night for the party's parliamentary candidates. His daughter, Jennifer Khan, and wife, Lady Annabel, will be by his side.

The dinner will be attended by Edward Fox, the actor; Mr Aspinall, who is contesting the seat of Michael Howard, the Home Secretary; and Peter de Savary, the entrepreneur, who is challenging Sebastian Coe,

an assistant Tory Whip. Charles de Gaulle, the grandson of the late French President, will also be in attendance.

A series of private dinners will also be held tonight. Lady Carla Powell, the wife of Sir Charles, the former foreign policy adviser to Baroness Thatcher, will host one gathering. The Putney constituency, where Sir James is challenging David Mellor, will stage

its own dinner. Pledges of allegiance are expected at the conference from other celebrities such as Geoffrey Boycott, the former England opening batsman.

At least 200 reporters and television crews will be in the hall and Viscount Tonyandry, the former Labour Speaker, has filmed a video supporting Sir James.

Letters, page 23

Overture sets the scene for man with a mission

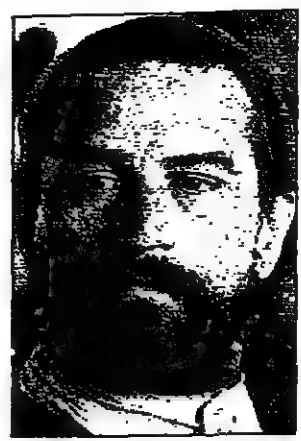
By Andrew Pierce

THE theme music of the Oscar-winning film *The Mission* has been chosen by Sir James Goldsmith as the signature tune of the Referendum Party's first annual conference tomorrow.

Sir James rejected the traditional strains of *Land of Hope and Glory*, a favourite of Tory party conferences, in favour of Ennio Morricone's haunting score for the 1986 film.

The *Mission*, which was nominated for a clutch of Oscars and won the academy award for cinematography, starred Jeremy Irons, who is one of Labour's leading supporters among actors. The film was produced by Sir David Putnam, another Labour supporter, but it is nevertheless a favourite of the billionaire financier.

The film is set in 1750, in what is now known as Paraguay, and tells the story of a Jesuit priest (Jeremy Irons), sent to build a mission for the Guarani Indians who has to overcome the intervention of a ruthless slave trader played by Robert de



De Niro's slave: Sir James likes the music

Niro. Tory enemies of Sir James would no doubt portray him as the De Niro character. But a Referendum Party mole said: "He does not see himself as either. He just likes the film. The music is extraordinary. You wait."

The set will be unveiled tomorrow and unlike those of the main political parties' conferences has been constructed not solely from wood but in material

draped in the Referendum Party's colours.

The conference will be warmed up by two videos showing the goodies and the baddies on the European stage. Baroness Thatcher will be included on the 'goodies' side. Jacques Santer, the President of the European Commission, on the bad. John Major also has a cameo role but nobody would say whether the audience would hiss or cheer. Video cameras will record the event for party members.

The Referendum Party, which has employed 300 people on its conference preparations, has stolen a march on its rivals by establishing a line direct to the British Telecom Tower, which will enable broadcasters to transmit straight from the conference floor.

Referendum Party members who have been to Conservative Party conferences will feel at home. Similar security precautions will be in place. The conference preparations have been spearheaded by James Pryor, who used to stage-manage the Tory conferences.

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VOUCHER PRICE £469.99

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Long hours come under attack by Labour

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

LABOUR yesterday mounted a fresh assault on long working hours after government figures showed that 4.5 million people work more than 48 hours a week with 1.1 million working more than 60 hours a week.

There has been a jump of more than 500,000 people with a working week of more than 48 hours since 1992, according to the Labour Force Survey, the Government's employment research department.

Stephen Byers, Labour's European employment spokesman, said: "We have become the overtime capital of Europe, with many people being forced to work long hours through no choice of their own. In the dying years of this century, we are witnessing a return to the days of the Victorian workhouse."

The working hours figures come ahead of an imminent ruling on the 48-hour working time directive by the European Court of Justice. The directive, which may come in the next two weeks, would give employees the right to refuse to work more than 48 hours a week.

However, some industries which need to work round the clock would be exempt.

Mr Byers said: "Not only do we work the longest average week in Europe - 43.4 hours compared to the European average of 40.3 hours - but these figures reveal the extent to which very long hours are being worked."

Lang to let suitors fight for Lloyds Chemists

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

IAN LANG, President of the Board of Trade, may give clearance as early as today for the bidding war over Lloyds Chemists to restart.

The DTI yesterday received formal undertakings from UniChem and Gehe - the two companies whose rival bids for Lloyds were suspended by a referral to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission - that they would divest most of the Lloyds wholesaling business.

Both companies have identified about 20 possible buyers. The lists of buyers have been with the Office of Fair Trading, which was asked to give its approval, for more than a month and were yesterday passed on to the DTI.

This is expected to satisfy the conditions laid down by Mr Lang in July, after the inquiry by the MMC. Mr Lang, who had set today as the deadline for the undertakings, is now expected to give his clearance.

The DTI would not say when Mr Lang will give his response, but it is believed that it will be within a few days - and could be as soon as today. Both sides will then have 21 days in which to bid, and are

likely to move quickly as the two companies have said that they remain very interested in the Lloyds retail chemist business.

UniChem is widely expected to rebid with a cash-and-share package, while Gehe, the German pharmaceuticals company, is expected to bid cash again. Both previous bids were worth about £650 million, and analysts expected renewed bids to be worth about 500p a share, near the current Lloyds share price of 504p.

None of the companies that have said that they are interested in buying the Lloyds wholesaling depots are under any obligation to buy them - and none of them have had any chance to carry out due diligence.

Most of the bidders for the depots are interested in buying just one or two of the six or seven on offer, but Medihealth, an independent wholesaler, has expressed an interest in buying them all.

Lloyds Chemists is understood to have co-operated with UniChem, Gehe and the possible buyers of the wholesaling business, but it has not provided specific information on trading.



Left to right, Britt Allcroft, Angus Wright, and William Harris, finance director

OFT clears STV bid for Caledonian

By JASON NISSE

SCOTTISH Television's £120 million bid for Caledonian Publishing, which owns *The Herald* in Glasgow, has been given the green light by the Office of Fair Trading (OFT).

However, the Independent Television Commission (ITC), also has to approve the merger. It is expected to rule today. The ITC has received submissions from academic and media bodies in Scotland opposing the deal. But many expect the merger to be

approved by Ian Lang, the President of the Board of Trade.

The concerns in Scotland are over the concentration of media assets north of the border. Scottish TV is 20 per cent owned by Mirror Group, which publishes the *Daily Record*. But STV has argued that, with the expansion of many London-based titles in Scotland, there are now 19 national titles for Scottish readers to choose from.

ERM 'tied' to single currency

By JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

HANS TIETMEYER, president of the Bundesbank, stressed yesterday that membership of the exchange-rate mechanism is essential if a country wants to participate in a European single currency.

His comments appear to rule out Britain and Sweden - and even Italy - for membership of the single currency in the first group in 1999. Britain and Sweden have argued that ERM membership is not necessary to fulfil the treaty's strictures on stable currencies, while Italy desperately wants

to rejoin the ERM but is not thought able to agree with France and Germany on an appropriate entry rate.

The Bundesbank president is the latest of a number of voices from the German central bank to warn publicly that they oppose any watering down of the Maastricht treaty's convergence criteria, or rule-bending, to allow countries to qualify. Germany, and other countries widely presumed to be in the first group joining the single currency, are ever more intensively try-

ing to discourage "non-core" countries not deemed ready.

Oskar Lüssing, the Bundesbank's chief economist, said yesterday that investor confidence in the single currency was being undermined by talk of a softening of the entry criteria. He said window dressing of countries' statistics was unhelpful. Ulrich Carstensen, a Deutsche Bank board member, said the stability of the single currency depended on southern European countries being excluded from the first group.

Green light for Thomas the Tank Engine

By JON ASHWORTH

THOMAS the Tank Engine is steaming to the stock market in a share issue set to make millionaires of husband and wife television veterans.

Britt Allcroft and Angus Wright currently hold near 16 per cent stakes each in the Britt Allcroft Company, which will be valued at about £30 million. The issue price will be announced at the end of the month.

Britt Allcroft is coming to the market via a placing aimed at raising about £5 million of new equity capital before expenses, according to the pathfinder prospectus, published yesterday.

Based in Southampton, the company holds the exclusive worldwide licence for the television, video and character licensing rights to *The Railway Series* of books by the Rev W. Awdry. It made a pre-tax profit of £2 million in the year to end-June on sales of £11.5 million.

Mrs Allcroft, 52, and Mr Wright, 62, co-founded Britt Allcroft in 1981 with a view to developing *Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends* as a brand. The result was a highly popular television series, triggering more than 100 film stories in 43 countries. A range of more than 1,700 licensed products has been sold worldwide.

The issue is sponsored by Price Waterhouse Coopers Finance and Chartered House Tinsley Securities is underwriting the issue. Mercury Asset Management is the largest single investor, with 31.5 per cent of the shares. Ringo Starr, the former Beatle, has 5 per cent.

Claremont closure to cut 700 jobs

CLAREMONT GARMENTS is to close a clothing factory in Scotland with the loss of about 700 jobs, it was announced yesterday.

The company said it decided to shut the Glasgow plant after more than a month of talks with the trade unions, Scottish Office and Glasgow Development Agency. A formal consultation with the GMB union to determine the future of the factory began on September 6.

Claremont said the factory would close by the end of the year. The same workswear product lines will be made at an existing factory in Peterlee, Co Durham, where an additional 250 jobs will be created. The cost of the factory closure is estimated at £5 million. In March, Claremont said it was carrying out a strategic review after disclosing a 14 per cent fall in its 1995 pre-tax profits to £12.9 million (£15 million). At the halfway stage this year, profits fell to £2.7 million (£6.8 million).

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Deutsche BA steps up domestic services

DEUTSCHE BA, the German subsidiary of British Airways, is stepping up services on five domestic routes, in an apparent response to moves to liberalise air travel within Europe. From April, carriers within the European Union, plus Norway and Iceland, will be free to operate domestic services within rival countries. This raises the prospect of increased competition within markets such as France, Germany and the UK.

From March, Deutsche BA will increase frequencies on routes from Berlin to Düsseldorf, Cologne/Bonn, Stuttgart and Munich, and from Munich to Düsseldorf. Services will be launched early next year from Munich. Deutsche BA's home base, to Hamburg and Cologne. Three loss-making international routes are being phased out: Munich to Paris and Madrid, and Berlin to Oslo.

UA launch confusion

CONFUSION dogged the first day of trading in shares of United Assurance, the £1.4 billion insurance company, yesterday. Market-makers were confused by the three sets of shares quoted and trading in the new company, created from the merger of United Friendly and Refuge Assurance, was thin. Only SBC Warburg quoted - with a spread of between 3p and 8p - for the new security attached to the former Refuge shares. United Assurance shares cum the new security opened at 448½p, before rising to 456p. United Assurance non-ranking shares hovered around 437½p.

Bankers Trust ahead

BANKERS TRUST, America's seventh largest bank, said third-quarter earnings rose to \$176 million from \$155 million, helped by a strong performance from investment banking and an improvement in Asian and Latin American operations. For the first nine months of the year earnings rose to \$465 million from \$389 million. Third-quarter results included \$18 million after tax from the sale of the Golden American Life Insurance Co. Investment banking earned \$77 million in the quarter, up from \$70 million a year ago.

Power breakthrough

ELECTRICITY consumers heralded a breakthrough in the plan to enable households to shop around for power. After industry warnings that moves to bring in competition were beset by technical and managerial problems, Yvonne Constance, chairman of the chairmen's group of the electricity consumers' committees, yesterday said progress was being made: "Whereas only a matter of weeks ago we... voiced our very real concerns at the expressions of doubt and uncertainty issuing from the industry, there has been a noticeable shift of opinion. Competition is due to start in domestic electricity in April 1998."

Apple defies forecasts

APPLE COMPUTER, the beleaguered personal computer manufacturer, surprised investors by returning to profit in the fourth quarter. A profit of \$25 million, or 20 cents a share, compared with expectations of a loss of 30 cents a share. The company had not forecast a profit before March 1997. The profit came partly from writing back some of the \$207 million restructuring charge that Apple had made earlier this year. For the full year the company incurred a loss of \$816 million. In 1995 Apple earned \$424 million.

Colgate back in black

COLGATE-PALMOLIVE, the consumer products giant, announced record sales and profits in the third quarter. All its divisions contributed to strong volume growth in sales worldwide. Net income for the three months to September 30 was \$160.9 million, against a loss of \$250.4 million a year ago, when it took a \$460.5 million restructuring charge. Quarterly sales rose to \$2.2 billion from \$2.13 billion, with all geographical areas making gains. Without the charge for restructuring last year, the New York company would have made a profit of \$119 million.

McDonnell edges up

MCDONNELL DOUGLAS, the American aircraft manufacturer and defence contractor, lifted third quarter net income to \$195 million from \$192 million a year earlier. Earnings rose to 90 cents a share from 85 cents, somewhat below analysts' estimates of 92 cents per share. In the three months to the end of September revenues remained flat at \$3.3 billion, declining slightly for military aircraft but rising in missiles, space and electronics systems. In the first nine months net earnings were \$581 million, compared with \$520 million.

TOURIST RATES

Bank	Bank	Bank	Bank
Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell
Australia £	2.10	1.94	0.815
Austria Sch	18.12	18.02	2.883
Belgium F	36.11	45.01	2.41
Canada \$	2.283	2.039	10.88
Denmark Kr	0.778	0.710	284.50
France F	9.80	8.10	7.81
Finland Mk	7.85	7.20	21.50
Germany DM	8.84	8.32	11.14
Greece Dr	2.838	2.578	2.136
Italy Lira	287	372	153000
Japan Yen	12.68	11.88	1.682
South Africa R	11.5	9.5	1.552
Sweden Kr	1.038	0.958	
Switzerland Sfr	4.56	4.41	
Taiwan NT	25.4	23.8	
Thailand Baht	191.50	175.50	

Notes: For small denomination bank notes supplied by Barclays Bank. Other rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

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PUBLIC NOTICES

MRS MARALDA REYNOLDS (nee MARSHALL) of 10, The Broadway, London, N1 1AA, hereby gives notice that she is the sole and exclusive owner of the copyright in the book "The Book of the Dead" by Mrs. Marshall, published by the author in 1994. Any person who wishes to publish or otherwise use the book without the author's permission must obtain the author's written consent.

ROYAL WAREHOUSE FOUNDATION THE ANNUAL COURT OF 1996. NOTICE is hereby given that the Annual Court of the Royal Warehouse Foundation for 1996 will be held at 12.30 pm on Wednesday 13th November 1996 at The Howard Hotel, 20-22, Colindale Avenue, London NW9 1LS. The agenda of the Court will be as follows: 1. The Report of the Chairman for 1996. 2. The Report of the Treasurer for 1996. 3. The Report of the Secretary for 1996. 4. The Report of the Auditors for 1996. 5. The Report of the Committee for 1996. 6. The Report of the Public for 1996. 7. The Report of the Public for 1996. 8. The Report of the Public for 1996. 9. The Report of the Public for 1996. 10. The Report of the Public for 1996. 11. The Report of the Public for 1996. 12. The Report of the Public for 1996. 13. The Report of the Public for 1996. 14. The Report of the Public for 1996. 15. The Report of the Public for 1996. 16. The Report of the Public for 1996. 17. The Report of the Public for 1996. 18. 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Under-achiever finally to come good? Pressure grows for judge-only courts Danger spots for exporters

Fisher king's food for thought

THERE has been jam tomorrow on the menu at food group Albert Fisher for so long that they might as well start making the stuff. This is one of the stock market's great under-achievers, sharing plenty of parallels with Sears, the retailer that owns Selfridges. Both have had boyish-looking, charismatic, highly-paid bosses in charge for four years now, who arrived with good track records elsewhere.

Both have had plenty of false dawns and masses of shareholders' funds written off. Both can boast share prices that have subsided like a punctured lilo ever since the arrival of the wonder boy, losing investors a good fraction of their money. Both have institutional shareholders running out of patience.

Eerie, isn't it? Have Stephen Walls of Albert Fisher and Liam Strong at Sears ever been seen in public together? Could it even be...? But enough of such X-Filesish speculation, consider Fisher's real problems. These always come in a bewildering and entertaining array, because the group has operations all over the world to go wrong. Earlier years have featured sickly prawns in Thailand and wilting lettuce. This time, we have obstinate Dutch farmers who will not sell their onions to order, a chilly North Sea, frozen mussels and a delayed cockles season.

Throughout, Mr Walls' strategy has been to go for higher margin food products, such as those over-priced bags of supermarket salad for people too lazy to wash the real thing. But margin enhancement has been elusive. Yesterday, he was promising more jam tomorrow. Margins at the seafood division are currently a miserable 2 per cent, for example, but his team expects 5 per cent within a couple of years, weather permitting.

The target is understandable; the concern is just how many more accidents there will be before Fisher gets there. The sale of the American distribution business, first flagged in April, has only just taken place. The City was cheered by the arrival of Neil England as chief executive because he is expected to get his hands dirty and make sure those mussels wrap up warm rather than focusing on strategy.

But what has supported the shares so far has been the payment of a dividend when normal financial prudence would not suggest it, and the decision to maintain that payment prompted yesterday's

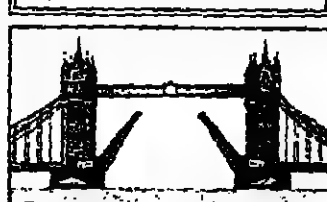
small rise. The shares now yield a whopping 11 per cent, and the City is looking for them to recover at last.

If they do, Mr Walls and the rest of the board will benefit too under the terms of the new remuneration scheme, but they will have to motor for him to do really well. If they do not recover — well, the fickle finger of fate has several times turned in his direction and he has received juicy pay-offs from earlier employers. History can repeat itself. Mr Walls is promising shareholders a "very interesting" future, but some feel the past has been interesting enough.

Jury's out on fraud trials

THE Earl of Mansfield, the eminent 18th century jurist, once said: "Consider what you think justice requires and decide accordingly. But never give your reasons, for your judgment will probably be right, but your reasons will certainly be wrong." His words were recalled by the Commissioner of the City of

PENNINGTON



London Police this week. "I am no longer willing to accept the perceived wisdom," said William Taylor, "that juries generally get the right result — even if for the wrong reasons."

Juries convict, and policemen grumble. But the record of the Serious Fraud Office since its inception in 1988 suggests something is seriously wrong. As George Staple, its director and another doubter of the value of juries in fraud trials, pointed out a couple of weeks ago, before that date many cases would have taken their chances with the usual prosecuting authorities or not been brought at all, deemed a non-crime just like insider trading a couple of decades ago.

Since then 150 prosecutions have been brought by the SFO. The smaller fry have been dealt with in the normal way, some guilty, some not, but the bigger cases have fallen apart spectacularly. It is as if, in a reversal of the normal scheme of things, plenty of car radio thieves were being caught but no one was ever convicted of armed robbery.

The mood is swinging towards the Roskill Committee solution for huge fraud cases of a judge deciding, with help from two lay experts. Civil libertarians dislike the idea even if so-called Diplock courts without juries have existed in Northern Ireland since 1973. Many readers with experience of inside a jury room, however, might regard themselves as in safer hands with a single judge.

But consider this. Robert Maxwell ran a huge corporation stuffed full of advisers, non-executives and lieutenants, and stole hundreds of millions of pounds. No one has ever been convicted of that crime. He may have been a foul-mouthed, arrogant, over-bearing bully, but he wasn't Superman. If he was not acting alone, then the system

of prosecution for fraud as presently constituted must have failed to identify whoever was acting in league with him.

Not so nice doing business with you

THERE was once this European company, in consumer goods, let us say, that went into partnership with a Russian firm to produce and sell the stuff there. All of a sudden some remarkably similar product started appearing in its home market, and very cheap too. The Russian partner was diverting the goods back home again. Our European friend had paid to create his own competitor.

As well it wasn't China, where there is effectively no law of contract, or Indonesia, where his partner might have been the president's son-in-law. They will not warn you about these risks when you go along to your merchant bank to discuss setting up in developing countries or the former Soviet Union. The talk will instead be of credit risk, of the economic climate as mea-

sured by the official statistics. Merchant International Group, which advises entrants into emerging markets, has now produced the results of six months of research aimed at taking in these unknown risk factors — corruption, bureaucracy, fraud, counterfeiting — along with the known problems of bad debt, worse roads and even worse water. Russia fares badly, of course — only the fourth most corrupt place on earth, but other factors make it the riskiest to do business. All our old favourites are there. Brazil, Mexico and fast coming up from behind, Venezuela.

The least risky place on earth? Singapore, which is measurably less corrupt than the UK.

Hardy annual

EXECUTIVES are just dying to have all their institutional shareholders turn up at annual meetings to kick over the traces. This must be true because large numbers say so, in yet another survey on corporate governance, this one from the headhunter Russell Reynolds. Just fancy. All those directors, desperate to be told where they are going wrong — and to be fired for it if necessary. The survey also says executives are very keen on long-term performance bonuses. Now that has a ring of truth about it.

Albert Fisher sent £111m into red by reshape costs

By Keith Rodgers

ALBERT FISHER, the food group, reported a £110.9 million pre-tax loss for the year to August 31 as exceptional costs from its continuing restructuring took their toll (see Pennington, this page).

The company's withdrawal from its German wholesale business and joint ventures for growing lettuce in North America, along with last week's long-awaited sale of its North American produce distribution business, resulted in exceptional costs of £151 million, largely consisting of goodwill reversals.

The group has now dis-

posed of or discontinued 60 per cent of the operations it had in 1991. The shares rose on the day to 424p from 39p after fears that the company would cut its dividend proved unfounded. Analysts pointed out that Stephen Walls, chairman, was also reasonably optimistic about ongoing prospects in its core markets.

Total turnover for the year reached £1.7 billion (£1.65 billion) with revenues from continuing operations climbing 11.8 per cent to £1.24 billion. Net operating income on continuing operations climbed 24 per cent to £45 million, while

pre-tax profit before exceptional items rose from £39.5 million to £40.1 million.

Mr Walls, who came under fire last year over his remuneration package, also revealed that the company has introduced an incentive plan, payable when performance beats the food sector average. He indicated that, had the plan been in place three years ago, the share price would need to have reached around 80p now for any payment to be made.

In Europe, the fresh produce division showed net operating income on continuing operations of £12.7 million (£13.4 mil-

lion) on turnover of £391 million. The remaining German business is now profitable. Net operating income in European food processing climbed from £12.1 million to £19.4 million.

In the continuing North American operations, turnover fell £3 million to £181 million; net operating income increased from £3.3 million to £5.2 million.

The dividend, payable on January 6, was maintained at 1.9p, giving an unchanged full-year dividend of 3.75p.

Tempus, page 30

Jacques Vert shares at low after warning

SHARES in Jacques Vert plummeted to an all-time low yesterday after the women's clothing group issued its third profit warning this year (Sarah Cunningham writes).

The company, which lost £5 million in the year to April 27, said that it "only anticipates a return to profitability in the year ending April 1998". Its shares fell 12p to close at 29p.

Retail sales in the second quarter of this financial year have been "disappointing" and wholesale orders have been below forecast, the company said. A recovery in sales in the first quarter has not been maintained.

Tempus, page 30

Prudential director in line for £300,000 payoff

By Marianne Curphey

A PRUDENTIAL board director could receive up to £300,000 compensation for losing his job after the sale of Mercantile & General, the company's reinsurance subsidiary, to Swiss Re.

John Maxwell, 51, who joined Prudential in March 1994 after being appointed by Mick Newmarch, the former group chief executive, is currently on an 18-month notice period. His basic salary is £210,000, and bonuses and benefits bring it up to £293,000.

Prudential declined to say how much he was likely to receive as compensation, say-

ing the details depended on "timing and mitigation".

Mr Maxwell has Prudential board responsibility for M&G and will leave the group later this year after the £1.75 billion trade sale has been completed.

He declined yesterday to comment on his future plans. A spokesman for the Prudential said: "Following the termination of his contract, he will receive compensation which will be disclosed in Prudential's 1996 annual report."

Mr Maxwell's responsibility for the company's businesses in Australia, New Zealand and Italy will be assumed by Keith Bedell-Pearce, while his responsi-

bility for strategy and development will move to Jonathan Bloomer, group finance director.

Mr Maxwell was briefly chief executive of BPB Industries, and between 1986 and 1992 was managing director of Provincial Group, the privately owned financial services company.

Prudential announced the M&G sale in August having said earlier in the year that a partial flotation for the reinsurance subsidiary was being planned. The proceeds from the sale will show up either in Prudential's final results for 1996 in March next year, or in the 1997 interims.

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Kremlin crisis unsettles London and New York

HOPES that the FT-SE 100 would surge to a new peak were dashed in mid-afternoon as news from Russia unsettled markets on both sides of the Atlantic.

Boris Yeltsin's sacking of Aleksandr Lebed, his security adviser, checked shares in London and New York.

Despite a resurgence in later trading on Wall Street, the FT-SE 100 closed below its best for the day at 4,042.1, a rise of 17.7 points, which topped up share values by just under £4 billion.

The sound of cheers and boos could be heard echoing round the retail sector yesterday as the spotlight moved on to Argos and Dixons.

Dixons cheered as a profits upgrade to £185 million from James Capel, the broker, helped to lift its shares, putting it among FT-SE 100 leaders for much of the day. It ended 11p higher at 569p.

Argos, meanwhile, lost some of its recent sparkling form as Capel's Paul Sawyer trimmed his current year estimate by £10 million to £140 million, citing the impact of a number of one-off costs on second-half figures.

Capel remains a buyer of Argos but its shares still fell back from Wednesday's high of 796.5p to touch a low 771p before recovering to close at 787.5p, down 9p.

Drugs groups were back in the spotlight, led by Zeneca as long-standing speculation that Roche, the Swiss group, is set to purchase was revived. Sector stocks were further lifted by strong overnight rises on Wall Street.

Zeneca moved to a another high point for the year at £17.26, up 38.5p, while Glaxo Wellcome gained 12.5p to 995p. SmithKline Beecham, which reports earnings next week, added 5p to 791.5p.

Hopes of a share buyback, together with a dividend held at 3.75p at Albert Fisher, the fresh food distributor, helped its shares to rise 3.4p to 42.4p. This despite underlying profits from the company, whose chairman is Stephen Walls and finance director Ian Quinlan, being at the lower end of expectations at £40.1 million.

Allied Domecq, the drinks group, retreated 4.4p to 478p on profit-taking despite confirmation of a broker's upgrade.

Brewers firmed higher on hopes that proposed accounting changes on depreciating



Stephen Walls and Ian Quinlan of Albert Fisher, up 3.4p

freehold assets such as pubs may be less severe than feared. Whitbread jumped 30p to 718p while Bass added 16p to 795p.

WEW, the discount retailer - better known as the high street shopper as What Every- one Wants - saw its shares slide 2.1p to 26p on profit-taking. Higher sales in the second half helped to cut year-

end losses to £3.1 million and there was encouraging news on the success of its new formula shops.

A warning that lower sales and smaller order books would hit first-half profits sent shares in Jacques Vert, the fashion group, spinning to a new low of 29.1p, down 12p.

Shares in Claremont Garments fell a penny to 206.5p after it announced the closure

of its Glasgow factory with the loss of 700 jobs.

BSkyB, the satellite broadcaster, hit a new high for the year before closing at 673.5p, up 9p. The shares shrugged off suggestions that Pearson is to sell its stake in the group, and were propelled ahead by growth prospects.

News of management changes at Pearson failed to

impress the market as shares in the media and entertainment group fell back 8.5p. Frank Barlow, chief executive, is to be succeeded by Marjorie Scardino, current head of The Economist Group, at the end of the year.

A strike at a US copper mine dented RTZ, where shares slid back before recovering to end 5.1p lower at 979p. The mine at the Bingham Canyon site

accounts for nearly half RTZ's copper production. News of its plans to develop oil reserves in Azerbaijan continued to fuel shares in Ramco Energy, the USM quoted oil services company. It jumped 42.5p to 747.5p.

Passing by on the down slide was Abacus Polar, which fell 2.1p to a low of 14.1p. The drop came after the electronic components distributor announced that its franchise agreement with Microchip Technology will end next month. The drop wiped around £12 million off the group's value.

Among companies reporting figures yesterday, a 3 per cent rise in pre-tax profits at Glesco, the construction group, left its shares unchanged at 902.5p, while MY Holdings, the packaging group, moved up 4p to 105.5p on a 38 per cent jump in its year-end profits.

On AIM, Berry Birch & Noble, the financial services group, moved back into the black at the half year with profits of £355,000. Its shares added 2p to 47.5p.

Reed, the publishing group, was one of the worst performers in the FT-SE 100 league. Its shares fell 2.1p to £1.70 on worries over increased competition from McGraw-Hill.

Manchester United added 8p to 558p, helped by its European Cup win in Turkey, while Wembley was also on form, moving up 9p to 403.5p.

British Aerospace rose 7.5p to £11.40 while GEC dipped 3p to 383.5p in further reaction to the selection of Lagardere as the bidder for Thomson CSF.

Early Christmas cheer helped Bluebird Toys, which rose 10p to 172.5p.

□ GILT-EDGED: The market took a breather from its recent outperformance and trading was subdued. Despite picking up in the afternoon the number of contracts completed was down at 85,000 and ahead of next week's gilt auctions. Investors are holding back, say traders.

The December series edged up £1.10 to £109.24, while in shorts Treasury 8 per cent 2000 were unchanged at £104. In longs, Treasury 8 per cent 2015 moved up 1/8 to £101 1/8.

□ NEW YORK: Good earnings reports and a bond rally helped shares on Wall Street, where by midday the Dow Jones Industrial average was 25.34 points higher at 6,046.15.

Asda, the supermarket group, was among retailers in demand yesterday, with about 30 million of its shares changing hands. Dealers expect the supermarkets to be pushed higher in the run up to Christmas. Asda shares ended a penny higher at 113.5p. Shares in home furnishings retailers were also on the up.

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Early Christmas cheer helped Bluebird Toys, which rose 10p to 172.5p.

□ GILT-EDGED: The market took a breather from its recent outperformance and trading was subdued. Despite picking up in the afternoon the number of contracts completed was down at 85,000 and ahead of next week's gilt auctions. Investors are holding back, say traders.

The December series edged up £1.10 to £109.24, while in shorts Treasury 8 per cent 2000 were unchanged at £104. In longs, Treasury 8 per cent 2015 moved up 1/8 to £101 1/8.

□ NEW YORK: Good earnings reports and a bond rally helped shares on Wall Street, where by midday the Dow Jones Industrial average was 25.34 points higher at 6,046.15.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones 6046.15 (+25.34)
S&P Composite 707.36 (+2.95)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Average 21423.76 (+26.50)
DAX 3003.5 (+1.19)

Hong Kong:
Hang Seng 12426.80 (+40.62)
EOD Index 589.74 (+4.74)

Sydney:
All Ordinaries 2353.1 (+1.28)
DAX 3003.5 (+1.19)

Frankfurt:
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DAX 3003.5 (+1.19)

Singapore:
Straits 3084.72 (+2.54)
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Brussels:
General 9944.98 (+10.52)
CAC-40 2165.33 (+6.81)

Zurich:
SIX 4000.00 (+1.00)
SIX 4000.00 (+1.00)

London:
FT 30 4042.1 (+17.7)
FT 100 4444.1 (+5.9)

FTSE 250 4444.1 (+5.9)
FTSE 350 4444.1 (+5.9)

FTSE Europe 100 1771.25 (+1.28)
FT All-Share 1982.84 (+1.28)

FT 100 Financials 3077.36 (+1.19)
FT 100 Industrials 1157.07 (+1.19)

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TEMPUS Pearson puzzles

AN UNKIND was on the fringes of the Pearson empire suggests that it is really two companies. Pearson Professional, which comprises the educational publishing businesses, and Pearson Unprofessional, which makes up the rest of the group. Into such a world, steps the new chief executive, Marjorie Scardino, although as former boss of The Economist, half owned by Pearson, she will have the advantage of the increasingly shrill cries from the company's critics.

The City - depressingly conventional in its tastes - was hoping that Frank Barlow's successor in the top job would be "a heavy hitter" - financial jargon for a middle-aged male asset stripper with a series of corporate restructurings under his belt. Unkind whispers from the prejudiced about an "in-house" appointment were not allayed by her com-

ment that she would be prepared to make radical changes "if needed". It is an article of faith for many that change is overdue. Pearson is said to be unfocused, drifting and worthy of takeover. Attempts to create a media group from a collection of publishing and TV interests were not helped by huge losses from a rash investment in computer games software. The group's return on capital is less than half that of a group such as Reed Elsevier, the individual assets of which are more lacking in lustre.

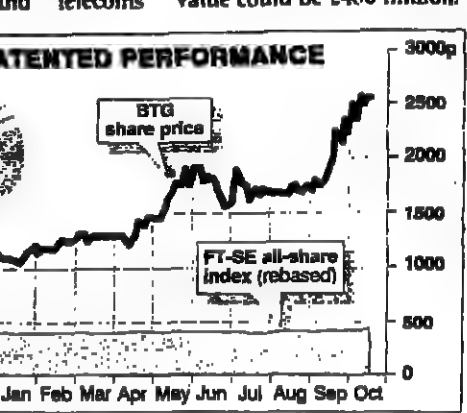
Pearson is indeed unfocused, but it contains small gems, such as the Financial Times, Penguin and Tussauds. Financially correct analysis points to the lack of scale and the sale of the FT publishing businesses or the TV interests. But selling is not the problem. Pearson's puzzle is what should it buy?

BTG

WAITING for the right moment to buy BTG could be a waste of time, the shares seem to defy market forces and are beating a £200 million to £400 million valuation suggested by the company's own broker. Fears of a biotech-style collapse might not seem unreasonable for a company that will not break even until 1999.

But BTG is probably safer than a start-up biotech company. Its business is buying inventions, securing patents, licensing the technology to manufacturers and collecting royalties. Unlike a biotech company, BTG puts almost no capital into the inventions, a reassurance to investors who fear the frequent cash calls of start-up companies. Initial outlay is nil as the inventor's payment is in a deferred share of

royalty and the only investment is in the patent. Although biotech often have a range of products in the pipeline, they cannot boast BTG's technology portfolio of 470 licensed technologies. Founded as a government agency to promote ideas from British universities, it now prowls among the pharmaceutical and telecoms



THE TIMES

CITY DIARY

Taxman Hector figure of fun

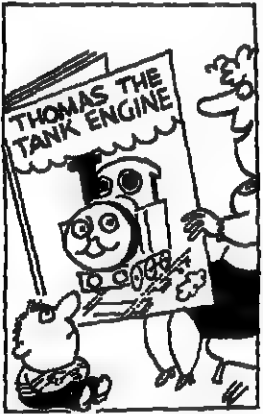
AN AWARD for the accountant with the most personality has gone to a cartoon taxman, rather than a senior figure in the industry.

Hector, the cartoon created by the Inland Revenue to advertise the new self-assessment forms, won the annual Personality of the Year prize awarded by readers of *Accountancy Age* to someone in their profession — considered by some to be the most boring in the country.

Sir Alec Guinness does the voice behind Hector, a civil servant with bowler hat, pin-striped trousers and a little moustache. Lombard NatWest, which sponsors the awards, said the prize proved that accountants do have a sense of humour.

City waters

DUNCAN GOODHEW, better known as a former Olympic Games gold medal winner and BT Swimming figurehead, is dangling his toe in City waters. The smooth-headed swimmer yesterday linked up with Derek Tullett, president of Tullett & Tokyo Foreign International, and Cavan Taylor, a senior partner of Lovell White Durrant, to launch Ludorum. The new company will be advising future generations of sporting stars on management and financial and career planning. Ludorum could do worse than signing up Damon Hill, Formula One world champion and Britain's latest sporting hero, who is likely to be powering away next season to a £10 million fortune.



"Today Thomas, said the fat controller, you are going to market"

Plain James

IT MUST never be said that James Miller, the seasoned non-executive chairman of numerous PLCs over the years, has lost his flair for plain speaking. "Many of our staff work in poor conditions with inadequate amenities and receive little or no training," he commented yesterday. The company to which he refers is WEG Group, which these days describes itself as "the value-format retailer." "An unhappy analyst quipped: 'Sounds like my place,' after a briefing with the company."

New Gamble

AFTER several months of searching Sydney Harbour Casino yesterday announced the appointment of a new chief executive to replace the one it lost in March. Dick Warburton, the chairman, said yesterday that the new man had the unanimous support of the casino's board members as well as that of its 26 per cent shareholder, Showboat Inc, the American casino operator. And as well he might. Who better to take up the post than the deliciously named Neil Gamble.

Treasury fresh

AS PROMISED yesterday, another gem from the Treasury's Accommodation and Security Team bubbled up for liquid soap dispensers and fragrant air fresheners in toilets. "Gosh, it must be fun to be a Treasury mandarins."

ECONOMIC VIEW



ANATOLE KALETSKY

Four ways to deal with the dangers of a strong pound

Industrialists in Britain may again be lulled into a false sense of security

YOU see, I was not joking. I have written repeatedly in these columns that the biggest economic problem facing the new British government would probably be an overly strong pound. When I directed this warning at Gordon Brown at the Labour Party conference, the reaction was polite derision — "we should be so lucky". And last week, when I said in this column that sterling might be on the verge of "breakout", even I did not imagine that it would jump by 2 per cent in two days. After that surge, sterling may be due for a temporary setback, but the long-term dilemma for policymaking in Britain was perfectly illustrated by economic events this week.

Wednesday's big fall in unemployment and acceleration of wage inflation provoked the expected Pavlovian reaction from City analysts — a demand for an increase in interest rates. Yesterday, the reassuring comments on export orders in the survey from the British Chambers of Commerce made matters worse.

This was exactly what happened in the previous sterling crises of 1979-80, 1987-88 and 1990. In each case, industrialists were lulled into a false sense of security by the temporary strength of domestic and foreign demand. The same is likely to happen next year if sterling rises alongside a consumer-led expansion in Britain and a cyclical recovery in Germany and France.

But what if the business community and the Government, for once, wake up to the danger of a strong pound? Broadly there are four different ways of dealing with an overvalued currency: to cut unit costs; to rebalance monetary and fiscal policy; to change psychology; or to abolish the pound by joining the European Monetary Union.

□ Cutting costs. The simplest response to an overvalued currency is obviously to cut costs in the export and import-competing sector — either by slashing the wages of workers or by raising productivity. But this is easier said than done. Wage cuts can generally be achieved only in periods of recession and high unemployment — and cause huge social disruption in an economy where people have large financial obligations (such as mortgages) which are fixed in money terms. Higher productivity generally requires more investment. And exporters are unlikely to step up investment if their profits are collapsing as a result of an overvalued pound.

□ Rebalancing economic policy. The textbook response to an overly strong currency is to cut interest rates and flood the markets with more of the

currency in question (as Japan has been doing for the past 18 months). But in an economy that is growing strongly (unlike Japan), a lowering of interest rates would stoke up inflation. The correct response to this inflationary pressure would be to tighten fiscal policy — that is, to raise taxes and/or cut public spending — at the same time as monetary policy is relaxed. In Britain, unfortunately, this kind of rebalancing seems well-nigh impossible. Not only are politicians preparing for an electoral Dutch auction over taxes, worse still, the monetarist dogma which still rules the Treasury and the Bank of England refuses to acknowledge that fiscal policy must be used just as actively as monetary policy to control inflation.

A Conservative Government, supposedly committed to low inflation, should not even dream of a tax cut in November's Budget. But in Britain this issue is never discussed.

□ Psychology. Unfortunately, a strong currency is still widely viewed by politicians and businessmen as a symbol of economic strength, as well as being popular with voters who enjoy the immediate benefits of cheap holidays and imports much sooner than they suffer the long-term cost of lost jobs. One way to help to move a currency downwards, perfected in the past few years by President Clinton, is simply to make clear to speculators and investors that the Government and the nation wants to make its currency weak.

After 25 years of experience with floating exchange rates, politicians the world over have seen that overvalued currencies can do irreversible damage to a nation's industrial

structure, while devaluations usually cause nothing worse than a brief inflationary blip. The asymmetry between the impact of a weak currency, as against a strong one, has become even more pronounced since the world economy has moved from generally high inflation to generally steady prices.

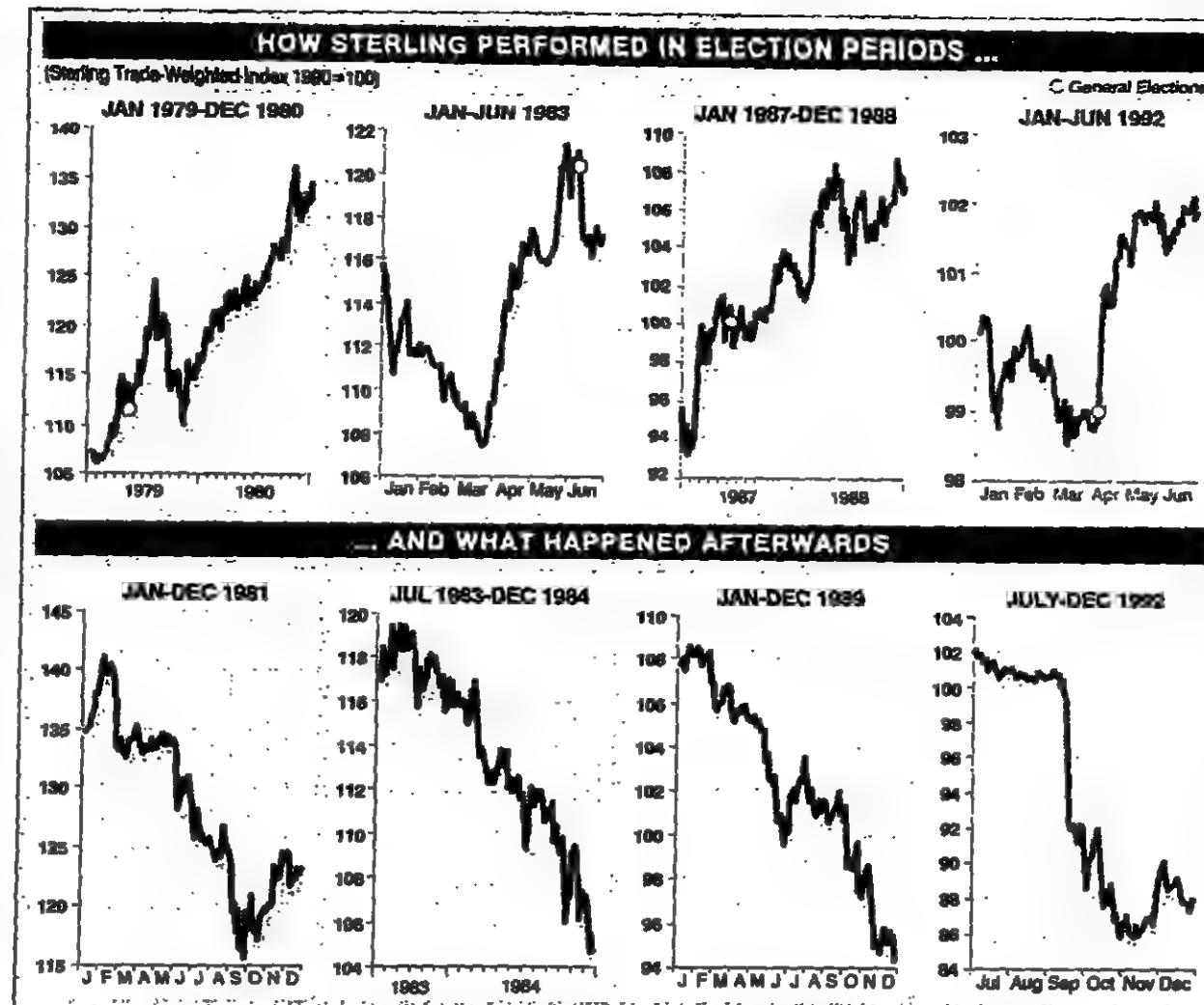
Germany, to cite the most important example, was able to benefit in the past from a hard currency because its main trading partners were experiencing rapid inflation. Every time the mark rose, it pushed up costs in France and Italy, setting their economies off on another price-wage spiral. German industry's loss of competitiveness was thus quickly restored. But in a world where inflation is generally low, there is no such easy relief for the pain of a "hard money" policy. Today the alternative to a devaluation is a cut in German wages — and not just the loss of a few pennies an hour in sick pay benefits, or a standstill in "real" wages, but a slashing of money wages by 15 or 20 per cent in one go. No wonder, then, that even the Bundesbank now seems to view a weaker mark more favourably.

One ironic consequence of the growing support in Germany for a softer mark (in the guise of the new euro) is that Britain may soon be the only country that still seems to welcome a "hard" currency. Since Gordon Brown has a pathological terror of the pound ever falling, the prospect of a Labour victory only adds to the impression that Britain will welcome a strong pound. This, on its own, is a big incentive for speculators to buy sterling. This leads to the fourth option for dealing with an overvalued pound.

□ Monetary union. Abolishing the pound is, of course, a counsel of despair. But for British exporters contemplating a ride on the sterling roller-coaster, despair may seem a perfectly rational response. I was tempted by this argument a few months ago. I now realise, however, that it is completely wrong. Even ignoring the broader political considerations, joining EMU to keep the pound competitive would be insane for two economic reasons.

First, there is no guarantee that EMU would be run in a way that would make the euro competitive in world markets — the recent history of European monetary policy suggests, on the contrary, that the European Central Bank might pursue a policy that is even more monetarist and deflationary than the Bundesbank's. Secondly, and even more importantly, there is very little chance of sterling entering EMU at an appropriate level. Because the European and continental economies are at very different phases of their business cycles, Britain needs significantly higher interest rates than Germany and this will continue to be true for the next two years. If Britain declared after the general election that it was joining EMU, investors would enjoy high British interest rates for two years without the risk that the pound would be suddenly devalued as it has after every electoral surge in the past (see chart).

The surge in sterling after 1997 would make the speculation before ERM entry in 1990 look trivial in comparison. And Britain would be locked forever into a grossly overvalued



Funny Texan breaks through glass ceiling

Oliver August meets the first woman to take charge of a FT-SE 100 company

There is a type of female boss that screams and bullies more viciously than any man. To break through the glass ceiling, it is suggested, some ambitious women decide to be even more macho than the machos they want to displace. Fortunately for the blue-blooded public schoolboys at Pearson their new headmistress is nothing like that.

Marjorie Scardino speaks with a lazy Texas drawl and you are more likely to hear her shriek with laughter than be shouted at by her. "I am an American in a British place," she said. "So they will tell you that I'm outspoken, outrageous and tell too many jokes." She prides herself on the fact that at *The Economist*, where she had been chief executive since 1992, she peppered the annual report with gags.

The 49-year-old Texan was educated at Baylor University where she studied French and psychology. "That was a completely useless experience as far as my career in business is concerned. I really liked experimental psychology, like sticking lots of electrodes into rats. But my work at Pearson is going to be nothing like that."

After university she married Albert Scardino, a journalist, and they now have three children, two boys aged 11 and 16 and a daughter aged 18. Together with her husband she set up a Pulitzer Prize-winning newspaper in Georgia while also working as a lawyer. "I was the publisher and Albert the editor and the real star."

"I only did a bit of editorial writing. It was a wonderful publication; it just didn't make any money. But I guess you learn more from failure than from anything else." She became President of *The Economist's* American arm in 1985, while her husband worked for *The New York Times* and later as press officer for the Mayor of New York. They moved to London four years ago when she took over at *The Economist* and he started work on a book and lectured on US politics.

Her marriage is very much a partnership — a concept she praises in business as well as in her private life. "I've always worked. I

only took a week off to have each of my children. I have always decided everything equally with my husband."

So what does she think about being the first woman to head a FT-SE 100 company? "I'm pleased there is at least one. But I never focused on gender. At *The Economist* we had a lot of women but we only ever tried to get the best people."

There still is a difference between the UK and the US, although it is changing fast. Men seem only slightly mind now and do not pick people because of the school they went to or the family they come from."

She said Pearson had a good gender mix and hoped that she would find the atmosphere welcoming. But the reception of the news of her appointment on the stock market was all but welcoming. Pearson shares fell straight away and then crept even lower. Her response: "Well, it is sort of embarrassing, isn't it?"

The main reason for the drop was that the City had expected that Frank Barlow's successor would be a recognised "big name". And Mrs Scardino readily admits that despite all her charms

"I guess you learn more from failure than anything else?"

North American self-confidence a big name she isn't."

Mrs Scardino was recruited to Pearson through her contact with Mr Barlow on *The Economist* board. "I knew Frank and also Michael Blakenham, the chairman. One day he said to me, 'would you be interested and so on. They had also used the same firm of headhunters that we used at *The Economist*. But I certainly didn't call them up and say 'I hear there is a job going, here is my CV'."

She agreed to take over at Pearson after winning assurances from the board that she would be able to implement her own vision — although when asked what the vision comprises she says she doesn't know yet.

"There are a lot of time-servers on the board so I asked to have a free hand and a clean slate. I see myself as a federalist kind of CEO. We all run the party together. *The Economist* was a debating society, we spent an endless amount of time discussing everything." — A new Maggie Thatcher she really isn't.

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Oliver August on South Korea's overseas investment

Seoul searching for business

THE South Koreans are coming. In the UK top 20 table of the biggest foreign investors there are now four South Korean companies, including those in first and second place. British firms and suppliers also benefit from the pronounced move into continental Europe by South Korean conglomerates.

In the last month alone, Hyundai revealed plans for a £2.4 billion semi-conductor plant in Scotland creating 2,000 jobs; Samsung took over Fokker, the ailing Dutch aircraft maker, which will save 1,000 jobs at Shorts of Belfast; and on Wednesday Daewoo bought Thomson Multimedia and announced that its efforts to sweep up the European TV market could create up to 10,000 jobs at its site in Northern Ireland.

The South Koreans' decisions have been influenced by the fact that the UK usually

pays them handsomely to set up factories here rather than in Asia. The British and other European governments are happy to offer hundreds of millions of pounds, francs or marks to secure the import of a few hundred jobs.

But all the efforts in the world would not be enough to lure South Koreans to Europe if there had not been a marked shift in their internal cost structures.

While per unit labour costs for the electronics sector are still higher in Europe than in Asia, the South Koreans have had to realise that labour costs as a percentage of total cost have shrunk significantly. Some estimates suggest that the labour input into a TV set amounts to only 5 per cent of the sale price today, down from 20 per cent.

But cost structures have also changed in another respect for Samsung, Hyundai and Daewoo. South Korea is no



Daewoo is in car output race

longer the cosy industrial wonderland it once was. Not only is the cold war with its neighbour to the north hotting up, but domestic wages have been rising and the close relationship with the political elite has been breaking down.

After years of faithfully working for miserly salaries, South Korea's workers are

now demanding their share of the Asian *wirtschaftswunder*. The move to Europe has been further accelerated by the demise of the politico-industrial network that used to lead the country in union.

Chung Ju Yung, the founder of Hyundai, was also the chairman of the leading United Peoples' Party until his conviction for "illegal campaign practices" during his failed presidential bid in 1992. In August, nine senior businessmen, including the chairmen of Daewoo and Samsung, were found guilty of bribing the country's former president, Roh Tae Woo.

Daewoo and Hyundai are now involved in an informal race over which will be the first to produce two million cars in one year. To hit that target they must fight the BMWs and Renaults on their home turf and create a springboard into Eastern Europe, a huge untapped market.

Strong sterling poses mixed blessings for Irish

FROM EILEEN MCCABE IN DUBLIN

IRISH exporters are delighted at sterling's steady climb against the Irish pound, but the country's Central Bank fears currency fluctuations could undermine its success in keeping inflation under control.

Yesterday the Irish pound traded at 1r£1.008 against sterling, its lowest rate in more than one year. Less than six weeks ago the Irish pound was trading at just over 1r£1.04 sterling.

As Britain is the Republic of Ireland's biggest trading partner, the sterling exchange rate is the most closely watched by all business sectors.

Although the recent strengthening of sterling makes Irish exports to Britain

more competitive, it also increases the price of British imports to the Republic of Ireland. If import prices remain high, then the Republic of Ireland's jealously guarded inflation rate, currently 1.5 per cent, will come under pressure next year in the crucial run-up to economic and monetary union.

Both the Irish Government and the Central Bank are determined that the Republic of Ireland will satisfy all criteria for EMU membership, including an inflation rate in 1997 of about 2 per cent. But some economists believe that is where the agreement ends.

The Republic of Ireland's Central Bank controls interest

rates, but the Government holds sway over exchange rate policy. According to Alan McQuaid, an economist with Bloxham, the firm of stockbrokers, while the Central Bank is worried about the weakness of the Irish currency, the Government may be quite happy with the situation.

"I think there are some in Government who think the Central Bank has been far too cautious about inflation," he said. "They say that recent consumer and wholesale prices show that there are no inflation pressures and so there is some leeway there."

"With the election looming next year, the politicians will be pleased that at least two sectors, the exporters and, of course, the farmers with their green pound, are happy. I don't think they will do anything about it, at least for a while."

Mr. McQuaid believes the Central Bank will be forced to sit and watch what happens as the Irish pound settles at or below parity with sterling for the remainder of this year.

The Republic of Ireland's electronic sector received another boost yesterday with the announcement that Stream International, of America, is to establish a European technology centre in Dublin.

The centre will be involved in electronic software manufacturing, technical consultancy services and licence management, and will employ 200 people. Stream also said that it would add a further 100 people to its payroll at its Co. Kildare plant. The company's existing operations north and south of the border already employ more than 1,000 people.

Last week 3com, another American company, promised to invest 1r£60 million to create a further 775 jobs at its research and manufacturing facility in Dublin.



James Millar is confident that WEW's new retail format will help the company to progress

WEW wins back customers

BY MARTIN BARROW

WEW GROUP, the discount retail chain that operates under the What Everyone Wants banner, incurred losses of £3.05 million (£4 million profit) in the year to August 3 but yesterday expressed confidence that its new retail format was beginning to win back customers.

The losses masked the progress made by the company as a result of "rescue" measures implemented earlier in the year, WEW said. James Millar, chairman, said: "We have made progress. From initial results at our new stores we can be confident of the appeal of both

our value concept and the appropriateness of the new design to convey that appeal."

For the first time since 1990-91 the company earned an operating profit in the second half. Profits were £900,000, compared with losses of £1.7 million in the second half of the previous year. Annual turnover eased to £115.7 million from £122 million. Losses per share were 2.2p (earnings of 1.65p). There is again no dividend. The shares fell 3½p to 25½p.

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BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Gleeson offsets weak demand for houses

ADDITIONAL work from the water sector helped AJ Gleeson, the construction, housebuilding and property company, to offset the impact of weak demand from homebuyers. In the year to June 30 the company lifted pre-tax profits to £3.7 million from £8.45 million. Earnings improved to 57.45p a share from 52.66p. The total dividend is increased to 16.06p a share from 15p, with a final dividend of 12.31p. The shares were unchanged at 902½p. Turnover improved to £198.3 million from £191.8 million.

Gleeson Homes suffered a 9 per cent fall in sales to 408 homes. But the company said net reservations are currently 68 per cent higher than this time last year, reflecting a general improvement in the housing market. About a third of the company's investment properties have been revalued, giving rise to a surplus of £2.02 million.

South West Water move

SOUTH WEST WATER has concluded an additional leasing facility totalling £180 million. The company has drawn £45 million from the additional facility, producing a pre-tax profit of £6 million to be included in half-year results to September 30. Further drawdowns are expected to increase to £9 million the pre-tax profit improvements to be reflected in the 1996-97 full-year results. "Comparable levels of pre-tax profit should result in each of the following two years as the facility is fully utilised by September 30, 1999," the company said.

Bridgend trims losses

BRIDGEND GROUP, the wholesale distributor and leisure group, is maintaining the interim dividend at 0.1p a share after incurring losses of £75,000 before tax in the six months to June 30, compared with a loss of £94,000. The loss per share was 0.3p (0.3p loss). Turnover fell £1.2 million to £6.9 million, reflecting the disposal of an hotel to Hanover International in August 1995. Since the end of the first half the company has raised £1.7 million through the sale of 1.37 million Hanover shares, reducing gearing to 21 per cent.

Polypipe shares sold

KEVIN McDONALD, chairman and managing director of Polypipe, the building products company, has sold three million Polypipe shares at 202p with a value of £6.06 million. The company said Mr McDonald sold the shares substantially to pay a tax bill. Of the shares sold, 608,500 resulted from the exercise of share options at prices ranging from 50.5p to 143.5p. Mr McDonald now holds 28.1 million Polypipe shares, representing a 17.1 per cent interest in the company. The shares fell 2p to 206p yesterday, against a 1996 high of 208½p.

Abacus agreement ends

SHARES of Abacus Polar fell 24p to 140p yesterday after the distributor of electronic components announced that its franchise agreement with Microchip is to be terminated with effect from November 1. The company said that in the nine months to September 30 Microchip had accounted for about 4 per cent of its turnover. Abacus, whose shares reached a high of 340p this year, said that it expects to report its next year-end results on November 25.

Ugland in \$200m reverse takeover

BY NOEL FUNG

SHARES of Ugland International Holdings (UIH), the shipowning and ship repair group, were suspended yesterday pending the approval on a proposed acquisition that was considered as a reverse takeover by the Stock Exchange.

UIH, which has a market capitalisation of about £27 million, will acquire assets from its main shareholder, the Ugland family, which owns 36.87 per cent of UIH.

It has signed an agreement to buy the 50 per cent stake of Hoegh-Ugland Auto Liners (HUAL), a company based in Norway and owned by the Ugland family for \$200 million.

HUAL, which carries out the marketing, chartering and operation of vehicle carriers, generated \$85.9 million in profit in the year

to December 31. The purchase will be financed through bank borrowings and new share issues. Owing to the size of the transaction, shareholders' approval will be required.

A further announcement will be made no later than November 15.

John Palmer, joint chief executive of UIH, said: "We have been working towards the acquisition of vehicle carrier interests from members of the Ugland family for some time."

The Ugland family has indicated that it will maintain its current shareholding after the issue. UIH shares were suspended at 69p.

In August UIH reported a sharp jump in pre-tax profits to £3.2 million from £919,000 for the six months to the end of June.

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Investors in Kepit 'risk losing out by selling'

By ROBERT MILLER

TENS of thousands of investors in Kleinwort Benson's European Privatisation Investment Trust (Kepit) have been told that they risk losing money by selling their shares in the market rather than taking the recommended reconstruction route.

With the October 26 voting deadline nearing, Ben Siddons, chairman of Kleinwort's investment trust arm, said yesterday that many of the 70,000 Kepit investors had not returned their voting forms on the reconstruction.

Shareholders have been offered the choice of taking a cash exit, a transfer into an M&G European unit trust, or rolling over into a new Kleinwort unit trust that will follow the same theme as Kepit.

Investors who ignore the forms will be deemed to have opted for the Kleinwort unit trust and will not incur any realisation or dealing costs.

Mr Siddons said that Kepit shareholders who sell their shares before October 26 will not be entitled to the interim dividend or any other special payout. He added that on the basis of the latest valuation investors who bail out prior to the deadline will receive only 97.5p a share, almost 3 per cent below the estimated proposed price under the reconstruction plan of 100.3p.

He said: "We believe that on the basis of the best current available estimates selling in the market will result in Kepit investors not receiving as high a capital value as is available through electing for units in the unit trust. Further sales before October 26 will result in shareholders not receiving their interim or special dividends."

The reconstruction plan was put into action after the trust received a hostile bid from Henderson Touche Renmant's European Growth Investment Trust (Treg) on the basis of Kepit's shares trading at a substantial discount to the net asset value of the investments in the underlying portfolio.

The Treg deal subsequently failed and is estimated to have cost up to £5 million.

Kleinwort accepts that the Kepit performance was disappointing but holds to the view that the concept of investing in European privatisations is sound. Tony Parker, Kepit's fund manager, says: "The unprecedented indications of demand for Deutsche Telekom reflect the increasing domestic European appetite for privatisations."



John Monks, chief executive, said trading in the current year had exceeded expectations, but added that MY's markets were likely to remain difficult

MY wraps up TWG purchase for £6m

By MARTIN BARROW

MY HOLDINGS, the specialist packaging group, is acquiring TWG Packaging, a manufacturer of self-adhesive labels and patient information leaflets, for £6 million.

In the year to the end of June, the business earned pre-tax profits of £600,000 on turnover of £4.25 million. MY said the acquisition would enhance its position in the healthcare packaging market.

Yesterday MY, which acquired Clark Packaging in July, reported a rise in pre-tax profits to £12.6 million from £9.1 million for the year to August 31. Earnings rose to 6.67p a share from 5.2p. A final dividend of 1.7p a share lifts the total to 2.4p from 2p. The shares rose 4p to 105½p.

John Monks, chief executive, said that margins in all sectors of the business had improved in spite of continued downward pressure on prices. Turnover rose to £86.8 million from £77.1 million.

Earlier this year Malbak, the South African conglomerate, said it was reviewing the future of its 64 per cent shareholding in MY, but no decision has been announced.

Mr Monks said trading in the current year had exceeded expectations, but he added that MY's markets were likely to remain difficult, with material costs expected to begin their upward cycle in the near future and European Union legislation on packaging waste creating more bureaucratic burdens and costs.

Wilmington profits up 64%

By JASON NISSE

WILMINGTON GROUP, the specialist publisher formed from businesses bought out of the collapsed Maxwell empire, produced a strong set of half-year figures, with pre-tax profits up 64 per cent at £2.06 million for the six months to August 31.

The results put Wilmington on target to earn more than £4 million this year, after £3.1 million in the last year. This is £200,000 more than the forecast when the company floated last December.

Brian Gilbert, Wilmington's chairman, said the company was now active in the acquisition marketplace, having recently bought two energy titles as well as *Production and Casting Report* to add to its stable of trade magazines.

It is also expanding organically, having launched an Asian version of the title *Soap*

Perfumery as well as the *Waterlow Solicitors and Barristers Directory* on CD-Rom. The company is able to fund all these moves from cash resources, having eliminated debt thanks to the proceeds of the float and by generating £2.5 million worth of cash in the half year.

Earnings per share rose from 1.54p to 1.91p. The company does not pay an interim dividend.

Australian inquiry fails to trace Booth

FROM RACHEL BRIDGE IN SYDNEY

THE Australian Securities Commission admitted yesterday that it has failed to trace Mark Booth, the alleged insider trader from Britain who made a \$2 million (£1 million) profit from options dealing ahead of KPN's surprise \$2 billion bid for TNT, the transport group.

for departures and there is no record of him." Mr Booth invested A\$90,000 in five million options just two weeks before the bid was announced. Yesterday the ASC said the search for Mr Booth would continue. However, it emphasised there is no evidence that he has done anything wrong. The Federal Court has frozen the profits from the deal.

Victory has struggle on AIM debut

By MARTIN BARROW

SHARES of Victory Corporation, in which Richard Branson holds a 10.6 per cent interest, had a disappointing start on the Alternative Investment Market. In early dealings the shares fell to 52p before closing at 54p, compared with a placing price of 58p.

The company, valued at £109.9 million at the placing price, was set up to buy stakes in joint ventures with Mr Branson's Virgin empire. The proceeds of the flotation will be used to buy a 50 per cent stake in Cosmetics Co and a 70 per cent interest in Jeans Co, both established with the Virgin Group.

Cosmetics Co is due to open its first shop before Christmas 1997 and Jeans Co should launch its product range early in 1998. Both organisations will use the Virgin name for their products and Mr Branson is to be chairman of both businesses.

London fares badly with expatriates

By NOEL FUNG

LONDON emerges as one of Europe's least desirable cities to work in, faring little better than Rome and Athens in a survey of expatriate workers. Pollution, language barriers, poor internal communications, housing difficulties, risks to personal security and political tensions are reasons cited that create hardship for an expatriate in London, according to the annual survey by ECA International.

The city scored badly in the last two factors, a reflection of the breaking of the IRA ceasefire.

The six best locations within Europe are Brussels and Antwerp in Belgium, Copenhagen in Denmark, Luxembourg, and Basle and Berne in Switzerland.

The survey examines key aspects of expatriate lifestyle, including quality of healthcare and educational facilities and political tensions, giving scores for each category. The

160 countries in the survey are given an overall rating ranging from A to F. Of the 30 EU locations in the 1996 survey, all except Greece are ranked A. Greece is dragged down by the risk of disease and poor medical facilities.

The biggest fall is recorded by Hong Kong which sees its A/B ranking in 1995 drop to B/C, alongside South Africa. The prospect of political tensions and cultural clashes with China as a result of the looming political changeover dampen expatriates' perception of the colony.

The rising star in the survey is the Czech Republic, rated D in 1994, and now B, owing to improvements in the availability of goods and services and educational facilities.

Iraq is the most difficult place to live in the world. The survey result will assist companies in deciding what percentage of gross salary to award as a location allowance.

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Canadian Overseas Packaging Industries Limited

(Incorporated under the laws of Canada)

Notice of the Thirty-fifth Annual Meeting of Shareholders

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Thirty-fifth Annual Meeting of Shareholders of Canadian Overseas Packaging Industries Limited will be held at Suite 4000, 1 Place Ville Marie, Montreal, Quebec Canada H3B 4M4 on Tuesday the 3rd day of December 1996 at 11:30a.m. for the following purposes:

1. to receive and consider the report of the Directors and the consolidated financial statements of the Corporation and its subsidiaries for the year ended June 30, 1996 together with the report of the Auditors thereon;
2. to elect Directors;
3. to appoint Auditors and to authorise the Directors to fix their remuneration; and
4. to transact such other business as may be transacted at an Annual Meeting.

Shareholders who are unable to attend the foregoing Meeting are requested to complete and return their form of proxy to the address stated thereon at least 48 hours before the time appointed for the holding of the said Meeting.

Declaration of Dividend

The Directors have declared the following dividend payable to Shareholders registered at the close of business on November 15, 1996:

Common Shares - Dividend \$0.38

70 Canadian cents per share for the year to June 30, 1996 (The comparative figure for 1995 is 65 Canadian cents)

The payment date for the dividend is December 6, 1996. The dividend will be paid in the customary currencies, related to the registered address of a Shareholder, in accordance with the by-laws of the Corporation.

October 18, 1996
By Order of the Board
M.C. JOHNSTON, Q.C.
Director and Secretary

THE TIMES ONLINE TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

See endpaper for full text of this advertisement.

Shares end below day's highs

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1978	1977	1976	1975	1974	1973	1972	1971	1970	1969	1968	1967	1966	1965	1964	1963	1962	1961	1960	1959	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	1941	1940	1939	1938	1937	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931	1930	1929	1928	1927	1926	1925	1924	1923	1922	1921	1920	1919	1918	1917	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911	1910	1909	1908	1907	1906	1905	1904	1903	1902	1901	1900	1899	1898	1897	1896	1895	1894	1893	1892	1891	1890	1889	1888	1887	1886	1885	1884	1883	1882	1881	1880	1879	1878	1877	1876	1875	1874	1873	1872	1871	1870	1869	1868	1867	1866	1865	1864	1863	1862	1861	1860	1859	1858	1857	1856	1855	1854	1853	1852	1851	1850	1849	1848	1847	1846	1845	1844	1843	1842	1841	1840	1839	1838	1837	1836	1835	1834	1833	1832	1831	1830	1829	1828	1827	1826	1825	1824	1823	1822	1821	1820	1819	1818	1817	1816	1815	1814	1813	1812	1811	1810	1809	1808	1807	1806	1805	1804	1803	1802	1801	1800	1799	1798	1797	1796	1795	1794	1793	1792	1791	1790	1789	1788	1787	1786	1785	1784	1783	1782	1781	1780	1779	1778	1777	1776	1775	1774	1773	1772	1771	1770	1769	1768	1767	1766	1765	1764	1763	1762	1761	1760	1759	1758	1757	1756	1755	1754	1753	1752	1751	1750	1749	1748	1747	1746	1745	1744	1743	1742	1741	1740	1739	1738	1737	1736	1735	1734	1733	1732	1731	1730	1729	1728	1727	1726	1725	1724	1723	1722	1721	1720	1719	1718	1717	1716	1715	1714	1713	1712	1711	1710	1709	1708	1707	1706	1705	1704	1703	1702	1701	1700	1699	1698	1697	1696	1695	1694	1693	1692	1691	1690	1689	1688	1687	1686	1685	1684	1683	1682	1681	1680	1679	1678	1677	1676	1675	1674	1673	1672	1671	1670	1669	1668	1667	1666	1665	1664	1663	1662	1661	1660	1659	1658	1657	1656	1655	1654	1653	1652	1651	1650	1649	1648	1647	1646	1645	1644	1643	1642	1641	1640	1639	1638	1637	1636	1635	1634	1633	1632	1631	1630	1629	1628	1627	1626	1625	1624	1623	1622	1621	1620	1619	1618	1617	1616	1615	1614	1613	1612	1611	1610	1609	1608	1607	1606	1605	1604	1603	1602	1601	1600	1599	1598	1597	1596	1595	1594	1593	1592	1591	1590	1589	1588	1587	1586	1585	1584	1583	1582	1581	1580	1579	1578	1577	1576	1575	1574	1573	1572	1571	1570	1569	1568	1567	1566	1565	1564	1563	1562	1561	1560	1559	1558	1557	1556	1555	1554	1553	1552	1551	1550	1549	1548	1547	1546	1545	1544	1543	1542	1541	1540	1539	1538	1537	1536	1535	1534	1533	1532	1531	1530	1529	1528	1527	1526	1525	1524	1523	1522	1521	1520	1519	1518	1517	1516	1515	1514	1513	1512	1511	1510	1509	1508	1507	1506	1505	1504	1503	1502	1501	1500	1499	1498	1497	1496	1495	1494	1493	1492	1491	1490	1489	1488	1487	1486	1485	1484	1483	1482	1481	1480	1479	1478	1477	1476	1475	1474	1473	1472	1471	1470	1469	1468	1467	1466	1465	1464	1463	1462	1461	1460	1459	1458	1457	1456	1455	1454	1453	1452	1451	1450	1449	1448	1447	1446	1445	1444	1443	1442	1441	1440	1439	1438	1437	1436	1435	1434	1433	1432	1431	1430	1429	1428	1427	1426	1425	1424	1423	1422	1421	1420	1419	1418	1417	1416	1415	1414	1413	1412	1411	1410	1409	1408	1407	1406	1405	1404	1403	1402	1401	1400	1399	1398	1397	1396	1395	1394	1393	1392	1391	1390	1389	1388	1387	1386	1385	1384	1383	1382	1381	1380	1379	1378	1377	1376	1375	1374	1373	1372	1371	1370	1369	1368	1367	1366	1365	1364	1363	1362	1361	1360	1359	1358	1357	1356	1355	1354	1353	1352	1351	1350	1349	1348	1347	1346	1345	1344	1343	1342	1341	1340	1339	1338	1337	1336	1335	1334	1333	1332	1331	1330	1329	1328	1327	1326	1325	1324	1323	1322	1321	1320	1319	1318	1317	1316	1315	1314	1313	1312	1311	1310	1309	1308	1307	1306	1305	1304	1303	1302	1301	1300	1299	1298	1297	1296	1295	1294	1293	1292	1291	1290	1289	1288	1287	1286	1285	1284	1283	1282	1281	1280	1279	1278	1277	1276	1275	1274	1273	1272	1271	1270	1269	1268	1267	1266	1265	1264	1263	1262	1261	1260	1259	1258	1257	1256	1255	1254	1253	1252	1251	1250	1249	1248	1247	1246	1245	1244	1243	1242	1241	1240	1239	1238	1237	1236	1235	1234	1233	1232	1231	1230	1229	1228	1227	1226	1225	1224	1223	1222	1221	1220	1219	1218	1217	1216	1215	1214	1213	1212	1211	1210	1209	1208	1207	1206	1205	1204	1203	1202	1201	1200	1199	1198	1197	1196	1195	1194	1193	1192	1191	1190	1189	1188	1187	1186	1185	1184	1183	1182	1181	1180	1179	1178	1177	1176	1175	1174	1173	1172	1171	1170	1169	1168	1167	1166	1165	1164	1163	1162	1161	1160	1159	1158	1157	1156	1155	1154	1153	1152	1151	1150	1149	1148	1147	1146	1145	1144	1143	1142	1141	1140	1139	1138	1137	1136	1135	1134	1133	1132	1131	1130	1129	1128	1127	1126	1125	1124	1123	1122	1121	1120	1119	1118	1117	1116	1115	1114	1113	1112	1111	1110	1109	1108	1107	1106	1105	1104	1103	1102	1101	1100	1099	1098	1097	1096	1095	1094	1093	1092	1091	1090	1089	1088	1087	1086	1085	1084	1083	1082	1081	1080	1079	1078	1077	1076	1075	1074	1073	1072	1071	1070	1069	1068	1067	1066	1065	1064	1063	1062	1061	1060	1059	1058	1057	1056	1055	1054	1053	1052	1051	1050	1049	1048	1047	1046	1045	1044	1043	1042	1041	1040	1039	1038	1037	1036	1035	1034	1033	1032	1031	1030	1029	1028	1027	1026	1025	1024	1023	1022	1021	1020	1019	1018	1017	1016	1015	1014	1013	1012	1011	1010	1009	1008	1007	1006	1005	1004	1003	1002	1001	1000	999	998	997	996	995	994	993	992	991	990	989	988	987	986	985	984	983	982	981	980	979	978	977	976	975	974	9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Dawn French in *When We Are Married*: one of the best tips for a good night out in the city this week

Making contact

CONCERT

LS: Stern



POP 1

Phil Collins discovers African music — ten years too late — on his new album, *Dance into the Light*



POP 2

... while the Beautiful South deliver another dose of delicate pop songs and dewy ballads



POP 3

It's middle of the road all the way for soul singer Dina Carroll on her new release, *Only Human*



POP 4

... while on *Ugly Beautiful*, the singer known as Babybird sets his sights a little higher



Phil Collins makes giant strides with every new album. This time he's reached 1996

Hello, I must be going off

NEW ALBUMS: The Phil Collins hit-making formula is wearing thin, says David Sinclair

PHIL COLLINS
Dance into the Light (Face Value/WEA 0630-16000)
THE music industry's blockbuster season is upon us again, and after last year's heady explosion of new British talent all the signs suggest a depressing reversion to type. Indeed, the managing director of Phil Collins's record label has promised a marketing campaign for *Dance into the Light* that will be so massive, "people will have to make a conscious decision not to buy it." Personally speaking, that would not be too hard to do.

As signalled by the title track — already a Top Ten single — Collins has discovered African music. Although about ten years late, he gets on the case with customary vigour, neatly skating between the jolly, Paul Simon-esque highlife-pop of *Wear My Hat* and the issue-driven pathos of *Lorenzo*, which sounds like a Peter Gabriel song diluted for mass consumption.

Collins remains a performer for whom quality of cut is more important than originality or depth of material. And as long as he sticks to straightforward, upbeat pop songs such as *Love Police* or the

Beatles-influenced *That's What You Said*, the album is pleasant enough. But the inclusion of a jollied-up version of Bob Dylan's *The Times They Are A-Changin'* is a gaffe of epic proportions. Not only is it painful to listen to, but, as the closing track, it throws the ephemeral nature of the album as a whole into cruel relief.

THE BEAUTIFUL SOUTH
Blue is the Colour (Gut Discs 828 845)
HAVING quietly turned into one of the biggest-selling groups in the country, the Beautiful South are not about to start tampering with the formula. Their new album is another understated collection of delicate pop songs and dewy ballads which continues the practice of marrying tunes that instantly get under your skin (or on your nerves) with lyrics that strive for a deeper resonance.

The result is a soggy musical soufflé, larded with nuggets of thought seemingly

inspired by the Eric Carle school of DIY philosophy: "Imagine a rod that cannot hold the fish", "God help the boxer with no hands", "Make your friends from Lego/Cause Lego makes a wall".

The three-pronged vocal attack of Jacqui Abbott, Paul Heaton and Dave Hemmingsway — all of them blessed with voices like meadowlarks — lends a subtle variety to the mix, but it is hardly enough to compensate for the album's lack of energy, wit and glamour.

DINA CARROLL
Only Human (Mercury 534 096)
WHILE Britpop has swept all before it, the progress of Britsoul has been more faltering. For, although our rock groups have found their own

voice, our soul singers still tend to stick to the American model, usually suffering from the comparison. Blessed with a wonderfully strong yet supple voice, Dina Carroll bucked the trend with her extraordinarily successful 1993 debut, *So Close*. But *Only Human* remains unduly hide-bound by the traditions of old-fashioned, upmarket, American R&B, notwithstanding the inclusion of her hit, *The Perfect Year*, written by Andrew Lloyd Webber.

On the title track and *Give Me the Right*, the swirling string arrangements — so redolent of Sunday afternoon movies on the television — add further schmaltz to the package. And although three tracks towards the end of the album, including the David Morales-produced *Living for*

the Weekend, signal a brief detour to the dancefloor, for the most part the album sticks firmly to the middle of the road.

BABYBIRD
Ugly Beautiful (Echo/Vital ECH 11)
PROLIFIC to the point of profligate, the singer and songwriter known variously as Stephen Jones and Babybird has spent the past year or so churning out a rapid succession of demo-quality solo albums, primarily for his own amusement. Since recruiting a band, he has begun to set his sights a bit higher, and has already been rewarded with a Top Three hit for his song, *You're Gorgeous*. *Ugly Beautiful*, a mixture of new material and rerecorded songs from the demo era, is the first album to do justice to a performer who blends whimsical pop instincts with dark undercurrents of religious and mystical imagery.

TOP TEN ALBUMS

- 1 Greatest Hits Simply Red (East West)
- 2 Falling into You Celine Dion (Epic)
- 3 The Score Fugees (Columbia)
- 4 Older George Michael (Virgin)
- 5 Jagged Little Pill Alanis Morissette (Maverick)
- 6 Travelling Without Moving Jamiroquai (Sony SP)
- 7 Ocean Drive Lighthouse Family (Virgin)
- 8 K Kula Shaker (Columbia)
- 9 Recurring Dream — Best Of Crowded House (Capitol)
- 10 Natural Peter Andre (Mushroom)

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So you thought the Beautiful South were just honey-coated sarcasm? Caitlin Moran knows better

You don't get ordinary people in bands," Paul Heaton says. "You see all these stories written about Noel and Liam from Oasis, and how they're just 'normal lads' having a laugh. If you're that into music, you're not normal. We've all got lots of eccentricities."

As if to illustrate the point, Heaton drags on his cigarette. Although a natural right-hander, he smokes with his left. "My dad didn't want me smoking — he'd always sniff my right hand, to check for ciggie smells. So I swapped to the left and he never knew."

During their ten-year career, the Beautiful South have ignored all the guidelines in the unwritten Big Book Of Pop Rules, and remained

The clown is Hamlet

proudly odd. Rule One: "Every Songwriter's Second Band Is An Unsellable Pig's Knee" — was broken on the first day of their existence. Having left the Housemartins on a high, Heaton and David Rotheray's first single with the Beautiful South went straight in at No 2. The fact that it was the bitterly elegiac *Song For Whoever* — the lyrics a poisonous wasp set in the amber of Heaton's voice and the sweetness of the melody — set out the Beautiful South's preferred method of work in a glorious four minutes flat.

The South's contrariness follows through into their lives: whereas other pop stars spend their free time golfing, gardening or getting it on, the Beautiful South retreat to the mountains of Spain for a spot of eagle-watching. And while Liam Gallagher can claim a front page by simply ordering an extra pint of milk, the South kidnapped an Arabian princess without a murmur from the tabloids.

"Well, we didn't exactly kidnap her," Heaton replies. "We were in a hotel, drinking away until they called last orders. Now, we knew the hotel next door had a 24-hour

bar. Dave here had noticed there was scaffolding up the side of it, so the plan was to climb the scaffolding, get into a bedroom and wander casually downstairs, as though we were residents, in order to continue a rather pleasant evening in the bar."

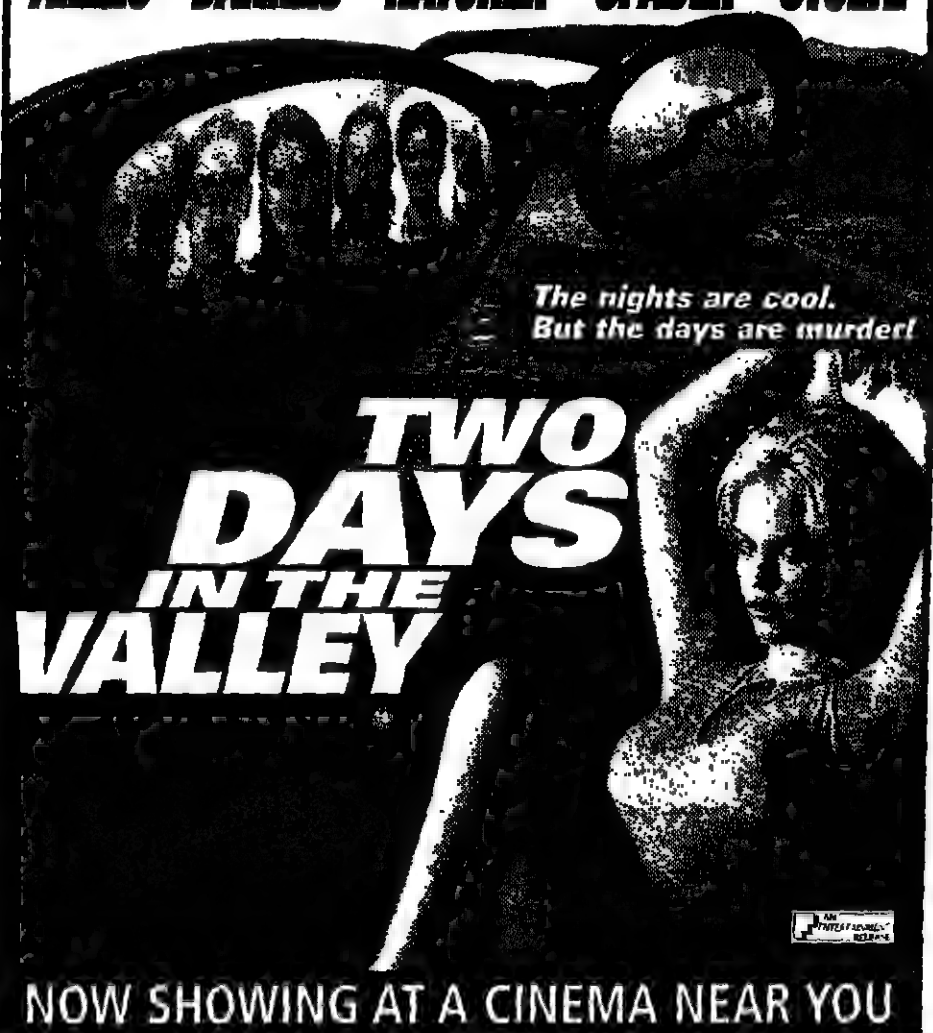
"I was half-way into a bedroom when I was grabbed by a man-mountain and thoroughly interrogated. We'd only chosen the bedroom of an Arabian princess." "That's not us being eccentric, though, is it?" Rotheray points out. "That's just us liking a drink."

"That's true," Heaton says. "We're just a set of sarcastic, drinking idiots."

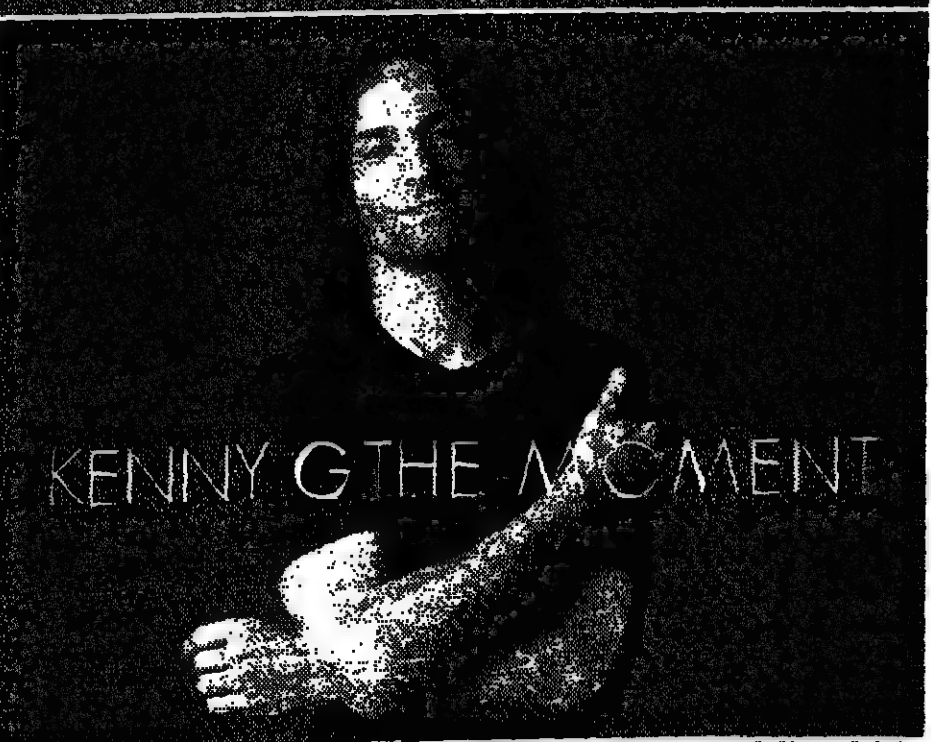
The guise of a sarcastic thinker/drinker who loves a lark is, of course, one that the general public can easily get a handle on. The fact that Heaton seems to be able to pen a straight-out pop hit whenever the mood takes him makes

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JANACEK Rhapsody, Three Bulbs
Sat 2 Nov 8pm
Travis Mark soloist
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CHOICE 1

Steven Pimlott's superbly cast *As You Like It* comes to London

VENUE: Previews from tonight at the Barbican

CHOICE 2

A 75th birthday concert for Malcolm Arnold on the South Bank

VENUE: Tomorrow at the Festival Hall

THE TIMES ARTS

CHOICE 3

The Royal Ballet season kicks off with a tribute to the music of Ravel

VENUE: Tonight at the Royal Opera House

OPERA

A pocket-sized staging of *The Pearl Fishers*, but Bizet's big melodies blaze through

OPERA: Rodney Milnes on a shoestring production saved by the score - and Leila

One gem for flawless Bizet

Bizet's *Pearl Fishers* is a curious choice for English Touring Opera. It needs a big chorus and lots of dancers to have its full effect, and ETO has neither. However hard the company chorus of 12 works - and my goodness it does - its tone cannot help sounding a little scrawny. But the piece's box-office attractions are obvious, and there was a full and appreciative audience for Wednesday's first night.

The Pearl Fishers

Richmond Theatre

"Improvements" by later hands.

But the central, rather lopsided eternal triangle carries enough weight to sustain interest, and the *béances* of the words are swept aside by the blazing genius of the 25-year-old composer - tune after tune after tune, plus uniquely piquant instrumentation. After too self-consciously "arty" an account of the Temple Duet, the conductor Andrew Greenwood settled down to give the music the thrust and energy it needs.

extremely eccentric. Sadly, Caroline Gawn follows the letter rather than the spirit of the text: her production is pure village hall.

Jeffrey Stewart's ringing, Italianate tenor - he was a fine Duke of Mantua on the last ETO tour - does not sit too easily on all of Bizet's dreamy music, but he produced some meltingly sweet *piandissimo* top Bs in the Romance. Adrian Clarke's unsparingly loud Zurga chewed the scenery to fair effect in the third act: at least he believed in what he was doing. Nicholas Garrett (Nourabad) has a fresh, meaty bass tone but looks too young even for an operatic High Priest.



Nicholas Garrett (Nourabad) and Sandra Zeltzer (Leila)

Riches lost in translation

A prize for translated children's books only points up our literary xenophobia, Nicolette Jones says

A new prize for children's fiction was awarded for the first time yesterday: the Marsh Award for Children's Literature in Translation. It went to *A Dog's Life*, an anti-authoritarian *deu d'esprit* about a retired dog of worthwhile employment, written by the distinguished Austrian author Christine Nostlinger, although the £750 prize money goes to the equally distinguished translator Anthea Bell. But do not rush out to buy Nostlinger and Bell's winning offering. It is out of print.

The qualifying period for the first Marsh Award was six years: the number of children's books we now translate from other languages is so few that a long time span was needed to guarantee a good field of competitors. *A Dog's Life* was published in English in 1990, but it did not make a splash. You might think that winning such a prestigious award would bring it back into print. Not so. Even this prize cannot ensure enough sales to justify republishing.

Klaus Flugge, a publisher at Andersen Press, would be delighted to put the book back into print, but he says that the prize might only prompt the sale of an extra 250 copies.

Translations are not hot property. Puffin Books, for instance, has published only two new books in translation in the past year. This is despite the fact that a couple of generations have grown up with, for example, Heidi, the Swiss Family Robinson, Pippi Longstocking, Mrs Pepperpot and Emil (or the Detective). Since the 1970s, however, there has been a steady decline in the number of children's books translated into English and published in Britain. Other countries continue to translate our authors with enthusiasm, but we risk missing their finest creations.

Readers, it seems, are suspicious of translation. We perceive it as warmed-over, hand-me-down stuff. And we act on the principle that, if we cannot have the pure, unadulterated version, it is better not to read a book at all.

We might just as well say it is not worth reading the Bible if you cannot cut the mustard

pean, although submissions included translations from as far afield as China. Two others, apart from Nostlinger's, came from German, all three translated by Anthea Bell: Ger Loesch's dreamlike parable of betrayal and honour, *The Penny Mark*, and Christian Morgenstern's surreal poems *Lullabies, Lyrics and Gallows Songs*. The other two shortlisted books were Dutch: van Leeuwen's, and Imme Dros's tale of a childhood fascination with the wanderings of Odysseus, *Journeys of the Clever Man*, both translated by Lance Salway.

As part of the National Curriculum, children are required to read from "other cultures and traditions", and yet economic forces mean that particularities of place and idiosyncrasies of idiom are often discouraged by publishers, who want to sell books internationally. Increasingly it is the translated books that offer real diversity and can still serve as a child's escape route from the creeping standardisation of international popular culture.

The prize might prompt only 250 sales?

LONDON

AS YOU LIKE IT Steven Pimlott's superbly cast production from this year's Stratford comes to London where it will run until March.

Barbican, Barbican Centre, EC2 (0171-436 8891) Previews tonight 7.15pm. Opens Oct 23, 7pm.

THE CUNNING LITTLE VILLEN Theatrical production for English National Opera. Lesley Garrett regales her virtuoso performance in the title role of Jansak's touching tale. Richard Hickox conducts.

Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-432 8309) Tonight, 6.30pm.

HAMLET Michael Malone plays the Prince in a production by Philip Frank. He has done great things here.

Greenwich Theatre, Greenwich, SE 10 (0181-858 7755) Previews from tonight, 7.45pm. Opens Oct 23, 7pm.

MILTON ADAMSON Theatrical production for English National Opera. Lesley Garrett regales her virtuoso performance in the title role of Jansak's touching tale. Richard Hickox conducts.

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Greenwich Theatre, Greenwich, SE 10 (0181-858 7755) Previews from tonight, 7.45pm. Opens Oct 23, 7pm.

WEEKEND CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Mark Hargreaves

MAURICE RAVEL Four works, all set to music by the French composer, are featured tonight. In addition to *La Valse* and *Daphnis et Chloé*, and Kenneth MacMillan's *La Fille du roi*, the programme includes a new work by Christopher Wheeldon, *Royal Opera House, Covent Garden* WC2 (0171-304 4000) Tonight, 7.30pm.

ELSEWHERE

ALDEBURGH As part of the October Festival at Snape, two of our best young singers, soprano John Rogers and tenor Ian Boarding, perform songs by Wolf, Britten, Fauré and Puccini in a programme which reflects the passion and language of the festival.

Snape Maltings, Suffolk (01728 453333) Tonight, 7.30pm.

BRISTOL The Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment under the Hungarian conductor Ivor Fyfe gives a concert performance of Mozart's short comic opera *The Impresario*. A talk on Mozart's Vienna, by H. C. Robbins.

Colston Hall, South Bristol, SE1 (01171-402 4242) Tomorrow, 7.30pm.

ROYAL BALLET The company begins its 1996-97 season with a celebration of the contribution to dance made by

LONDON

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE The company begins its 1996-97 season with a celebration of the contribution to dance made by

Colston Hall, South Bristol, SE1 (01171-402 4242) Tomorrow, 7.30pm.

ROYAL BALLET The company begins its 1996-97 season with a celebration of the contribution to dance made by

Colston Hall, South Bristol, SE1 (01171-402 4242) Tomorrow, 7.30pm.

ART Alison Fyfe, Tom Courtenay and Ken Stott in Christopher Hampton's translation of the Pans success by Yasmina Reza. Three great friends find themselves at odds when one buys a piece of modern art. Matthew Warchus directs.

Wynthesia's, Charing Cross Rd, WC2 (0171-369 1739) Tue-Sat, 8pm, mat. Wed, 3pm, Sat and Sun 5pm.

ASHES TO ASHES Lindsay Duncan and Stephen Rea in Peter's Duncan's two-handers about remembrance and violence.

Royal Court Opera (Artsandmore), West Street, WC2 (0171-255 5000) Tue-Sat, 8pm, mat. Thurs and Sat 4pm. Oct 19-20.

BY JEDDES Delirious musical comedy by Alan Ayckbourn and Andrew Lloyd Webber, based on the Wodehouse novels.

Alison, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5045) Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mat. Wed and Sat, 3pm.

FOOL FOR LOVE Ian Brown directs. Barry Lynch and Lorraine Ashbourne in Sam Sheppard's verse drama of love on the edge of the Mojave desert.

DeWolfe, Whitehall, East End, SE1 (0171-369 1732) Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat. Thurs and Sat, 4pm. Oct 19-20.

JOHN GABRIEL BORDMAN Paul Schofield, Vanessa Redgrave, Ellen Barkin and Michael Byrne, directed by Richard Eyre. A mighty cast for Ibsen's

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

House full, returns only

Seems to be a bit of a

Beats at all prices

penultimate play, concerned with guilt, remorse and reconciliation.

Wellington Theatre (Lyric), South Bank, SE1 (0171-925 2552) Tonight, 7.30pm. Tomorrow, 2.15pm and 7.30pm. In rep.

THE RINGING BELL Drama. Quaker and Jew in the 19th century. The play is about a Jewish girl who reached England from Nazi Germany.

Wellington Theatre (Lyric), South Bank, SE1 (0171-925 2552) Tonight, 7.30pm. Tomorrow, 2.15pm and 7.30pm. In rep.

THE LOOBER Mummy Melon (book on the Scottish stage after 35 years) guides us into the relationship between the man thought to be Jack the Ripper and the lady (Lynn Farthing).

Theatre Royal, Gilly Street, SE1 (0171-418 534 0310) Mon-Sat, 8pm.

WOMAN Second chance to see the multi-award-winning Jai Butcher's heart-breaking play, set in a Glasgow tenement. A new cast.

Wellington Theatre (Lyric), South Bank, SE1 (0171-925 2552) Tonight, 7.30pm. Tomorrow, 2.15pm and 7.30pm. In rep.

ROYAL COURT OPERA The company begins its 1996-97 season with a celebration of the contribution to dance made by

Colston Hall, South Bristol, SE1 (01171-402 4242) Tomorrow, 7.30pm.

ROYAL BALLET The company begins its 1996-97 season with a celebration of the contribution to dance made by

Colston Hall, South Bristol, SE1 (01171-402 4242) Tomorrow, 7.30pm.

NEW RELEASES

BOSTON KICKOUT (18) School leavers seek good times in Severnside. Lively debut feature by director Paul Hill, with John Simm and Ewan McGregor.

ABC Television Court Road (17) 6.30-6.45pm. (18) 7.15-7.30pm. (19) 7.30-7.45pm. (20) 7.45-8.00pm. (21) 8.00-8.15pm. (22) 8.15-8.30pm. (23) 8.30-8.45pm. (24) 8.45-9.00pm. (25) 9.00-9.15pm. (26) 9.15-9.30pm. (27) 9.30-9.45pm. (28) 9.45-10.00pm. (29) 10.00-10.15pm. (30) 10.15-10.30pm. (31) 10.30-10.45pm. (32) 10.45-11.00pm. (33) 11.00-11.15pm. (34) 11.15-11.30pm. (35) 11.30-11.45pm. (36) 11.45-12.00pm. (37) 12.00-12.15pm. (38) 12.15-12.30pm. (39) 12.30-12.45pm. (40) 12.45-1.00pm. (41) 1.00-1.15pm. (42) 1.15-1.30pm. (43) 1.30-1.45pm. (44) 1.45-2.00pm. (45) 2.00-2.15pm. (46) 2.15-2.30pm. (47) 2.30-2.45pm. (48) 2.45-3.00pm. (49) 3.00-3.15pm. (50) 3.15-3.30pm. (51) 3.30-3.45pm. (52) 3.45-4.00pm. (53) 4.00-4.15pm. (54) 4.15-4.30pm. (55) 4.30-4.45pm. (56) 4.45-5.00pm. (57) 5.00-5.15pm. (58) 5.15-5.30pm. (59) 5.30-5.45pm. (60) 5.45-6.00pm. (61) 6.00-6.15pm. (62) 6.15-6.30pm. (63) 6.30-6.45pm. (64) 6.45-7.00pm. (65) 7.00-7.15pm. (66) 7.15-7.30pm. (67) 7.30-7.45pm. (68) 7.45-8.00pm. 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The Dragon Awards were established nine years ago by the City of London to encourage businesses and voluntary

Businesses can be good neighbours

It is one of the London's ironies that the famous "Square Mile", the richest piece of real estate in Britain, where vast sums of money are transacted daily, adjoins some of the poorest areas in Britain. Hackney and Tower Hamlets adjoin it to the north and east, further east is Newham, and across the river are Southwark and Lambeth, all facing formidable social problems.

Among those City workers prepared to look beyond their immediate preoccupations, the contrast ought to stir consciences, and indeed it has done so. The evidence lies in the ninth annual Dragon Awards for outstanding examples of business involvement in the wider community, in particular in providing help and guidance for the disadvantaged, which were presented by the Lord Mayor of London at a banquet at the Mansion House last night.

The awards are organised by Business in the Community, in association with Carlton Television, on behalf of the Corporation of London. Their purpose is to encourage businesses and voluntary organisations to work together for the good of their own neighbourhood. They record successful partnerships with a London connection and stimulate more organisations to become involved.

Launched at the height of the Thatcherite boom, when many Britons seemed temporarily blind-

ed by greed and opportunism, they have survived the subsequent recession and moved into an era in which, it appears, there is greater awareness of the need to nurture small businesses and equip young people with the skills needed for a career. Sir John Chalfrey, the Lord Mayor, said last night that this year's entries had been of outstanding quality, from the small and local to the large national initiatives.

"Companies have undertaken many innovative and well-targeted projects which will be an inspiration and guide to those not yet active in their communities," he said. Sir John also drew attention to the fact that nearly half of the 92 entries were in the Education and Training category, reflecting the strengthening of links between business and education.

Colin Stanbridge, managing director of Carlton, said that many more companies were now working in partnership with voluntary organisations and schools, and that involvement with the community had risen substantially.

This year's judges were the Lord Mayor, Mr Stanbridge, Lord Sheppard of Didgmore, Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, Colonel John Ansell, the Swordbearer, the Reverend Andrew Mawson, Chief Executive of Bromley by Bow, Martyn Lewis, newsreader, and Claire Anderson, Manager of the Dragon Awards.



Sorcerer and his apprentices: Sir Terence Conran with budding chefs at the new catering school by the Thames at Butlers Wharf

Restaurateur cooks up plan for good staff

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Gourmets may or may not be surprised to learn that Britain suffers from a shortage of skilled chefs and waiters. That at any rate is the experience of Sir Terence Conran who in recent years has turned his eclectic skills to opening restaurants and persuading us that good food and drink is worth the money.

In London alone the opening of Mezzo, reputedly Europe's largest restaurant, and L'Odeon, obliged Sir Terence to recruit 165 skilled staff from other restaurants.

Faced with the evidence of a serious shortage of qualified staff, Conran Restaurants joined forces

in November last year with the London Docklands Development Corporation, Southwark Council and the Hotel and Catering Training Company to open a catering school on the south bank of the Thames opposite the City.

In less than a year it has provided training for more than 250 people and has a 100 per cent success rate in finding work for students. The school's restaurant is open to the public five days a week for lunch and dinner, as well as a training kitchen, there is a

specialist demonstration theatre.

The aim of the school is to provide training for those wishing to pursue a career as a waiter or a chef, mostly people living in south-east or central London. Training is focused on the apprentice restaurant, and participants follow programmes based on national vocational qualifications.

The basic six-week full-time course costs £850, in most cases partly met by grants and sponsorship. But the school operates a flexible curriculum to allow for

students on day release, teenagers looking for their first jobs and unemployed people seeking to retrain. There are no formal entry requirements but students need "an enthusiastic commitment to learning" and the ability to absorb classroom work, on food preparation and hygiene as well as practical training.

Conran Restaurants provided £25,000 to meet pre-opening costs and has pledged at least £100,000 to meet the first three years of training. Other sponsors include Tower Hamlets Council, Bethnal Green City Challenge and several restaurant chains.

Residents clean up inner city

COMMUNITY

INNER-CITY problems do not come much worse than in Balsall Heath, Birmingham. To its unlovely appearance must be added a male unemployment rate of more than 40 per cent, prostitution and a crime rate twice the national average.

But with remarkable determination to fight for a better way of life its multi-ethnic population has initiated a Streetwatch scheme, whereby 500 volunteers collaborate to fight crime and to free the streets from prostitutes and their clients.

In March last year, on a "Seeing is Believing" visit organised by Business in the Community, Neville Sims, Chief Executive of Tarmac, led a group of employers who made a commitment to support the local community's regeneration programme. Its stated tasks were to help develop an action programme for the "recovery" of Balsall Heath, and to channel grants towards sustaining long-term development.

Tarmac has so far contributed £25,000 towards small-scale projects, including the provision of a Portacabin and three mobile telephones for members of Streetwatch, resulting in a drastic fall in crime rates and prostitution. Other local companies have provided the finance and expertise to help clear 90 tonnes of rubbish.

More importantly, Tarmac has seconded three managers to work with the Balsall Heath Forum to produce a neighbourhood development plan and distribute it to local residents, businesses and public sector bodies. The plan has helped to direct several individual projects.

The result — raised morale within the community; reduced crime with an associated decrease in insurance premiums; continuing support from local businesses; and an improved image.

Reversing the downward spiral of homelessness

FOUR years ago, with an estimated 2,000 people sleeping out in the streets of London, the Peabody Trust undertook a new approach to helping the homeless. Because of the clear link between homelessness and unemployment, it decided to set up a centre to provide both accommodation and training. The aim was to overcome the overriding problem that many people face, namely that without a home they usually cannot get a job, and without a job they cannot afford a home.

The centre was completed in September

LONDON PARTNERSHIP

1993 and it provided the first integrated housing and educational training programme in the United Kingdom, and was officially opened by the Prince of Wales three months later. Since then it has attracted national attention and has recently been selected as a pilot project for monitoring the effectiveness of similar programmes.

Residents stay for an average of between

18 months and two years, and receive training and help towards setting themselves up in employment and for an independent life. Between April 1995 and March this year nearly 100 residents were trained in basic skills or undertook educational and vocational courses. A total of 291 people, both residents and non-residents, completed training in job-seeking techniques, and thirty-seven residents

and 252 non-residents found work through the centre's Job Club.

The centre is run by the Tomorrow People's Trust, the Peabody Trust and the Look Ahead Housing Association, and is supported by Friends of Gateway, including Grand Metropolitan which submitted the nomination for the London partnership award. Other Friends include British Rail South Eastern, BUPA, IBM, Masons Solicitors, Morgan Stanley, Marks & Spencer, Crisis, London Enterprise Agency and the Corporation of London.



Yve Thomson, a Job Club leader, prepares Nathan Ford for a job interview

Actions speak louder than words



Active involvement in 1996 community life is a key part of Barclays philosophy

For further details of Barclays Community Affairs programme, write to Barclays PLC, 54 Lombard St, London EC3P 3AH



BARCLAYS

Handyperson Scheme



Thank you very much for sending those two very kind people to cut the trees down

for me. It has taken a tremendous worry off my mind, I am unable to do these things myself now. So "thank you" once again from the bottom of my heart.

Mrs Rene Jones, Caernarfon

"Now I am older, I have more time on my hands. Since volunteering for the British Gas Handyperson Scheme I have met some wonderful people and I feel I am making a real difference to their lives.

But also it has been good to put something back into my community."

John Chatsman
Handyperson, Scotland

"Age Concern would like to thank British Gas for their commitment to the Handyperson Scheme.

Often what we see as small tasks like changing a light bulb, mowing the lawn or moving furniture, present real problems to an older person living at home.

This innovative scheme has been made possible through our close partnership with British Gas and has been a major success, enhancing the lives of thousands of older people and giving them peace of mind and independence."

Sally Greengross
Director General,
Age Concern England

AGE Concern

British Gas

Lord

Tarm

organisations to work together to help London communities. John Young looks at the work of this year's winners

Inventive children take up challenge

EMPLOYEE INVOLVEMENT

LAST YEAR Bridisco, a distributor of electrical goods based in Tottenham, north London, issued a challenge to schoolchildren in its borough of Haringey, as part of a project to help young people to develop business and technological skills. They were invited to design an electrical product and devise its packaging, sales and marketing.

More than 1,200 students took up the challenge. Among their "inventions" were security systems, burglar alarms, night lights, a moisture detector, an interactive electronic book and a device to stop baths overflowing.

The company's initiative was in response to constant complaints that young people had not developed the skills to prepare them for work in an economy based on rapidly changing technology and innovation. It saw the challenge as an opportunity for the students to develop technological skills and for their teachers to work with and visit local employers. It also hoped to promote partnerships between business and education and allow employers to become involved in planning technology teaching in schools.

The company employs some 550 staff, and almost every department was involved in the scheme. Rather than just pump money into the project, the company made a point of getting staff directly involved, and a total of 45 visits were made to the nine schools taking part.

The entries were displayed at a presentation ceremony at Alexandra Palace last June, at which, in addition to prizes and certificates, each school received a camcorder. More than 130 people attended, including head teachers, school governors, and the chairman, chief executive and education director of Haringey council.

Schools do the Groundwork



Emma Holden and Dan Webb taking part in the GreenIT programme in the Midlands

ENVIRONMENT

Five years ago Groundwork, the environmental organisation, launched a pilot project in the Black Country, north and west of Birmingham, to encourage schoolchildren in using modern information technology to initiate landscape improvements. With assistance and encouragement from local businesses, the children are able to study environmental issues in conjunction with curriculum lessons in geography, science, technology, art, English and mathematics.

Since then the programme, now called GreenIT, has been extended nationally to include seven "centres of excellence" and nearly 24,000 schoolchildren have taken part in developing plans for the regeneration of more than 140 hectares (350 acres).

In the last five years the programme has started more than 900 projects and formed more than 250 partnerships with businesses.

It has attracted well over £250,000 in grant aid and income from the private and public sectors to supplement the original investment of £140,000 by RTZ and the Department of the Environment. Schoolteachers have

commented enthusiastically on the programme which enables children to study environmental issues involved in the improvement of industrial premises. They are also made aware of the factors affecting businesses, led to understand the needs of employees and helped to realise the potential benefits to wildlife in urban areas.

A local head teacher said: "Educationally the children have benefited considerably with the expertise and number of adults coming to assist with the project and to help children address various green issues."

A managing director said, after a visit by a children's group: "It really made me think about what needs doing to the premises. I was very impressed with how they listened to my ideas and incorporated them into their own plans."

The company hopes that, before the end of the century, the programme will provide a further 30,000 students with an understanding of the need to manage landscapes and the complexity of environmental decision making. It has adopted a millennium strapline: Schools Creating 21st Century Landscapes.

Banks show a softer side

CITY FIRM

Banks are not the public's favourite institutions, and recent revelations of murky dealings, insensitivity to customers and huge salaries and perks paid to what have become known as fat cat directors have not improved their image.

But there is a softer side to Mammon. For several years, Barclays has encouraged its employees to become involved in voluntary work and fundraising to help less fortunate members of the community.

Its Community Partners scheme has two objectives. One is to encourage employees to raise funds for charities, which commits the bank to matching their efforts pound for pound. The other is to support voluntary work by its staff when they want to help their fellow citizens.

The "pound for pound" scheme was restarted in spring last year, and in the first 12 months it raised more than £1.25 million, a six-fold increase on the previous year. More than 1,200

employee activities were matched by bank funding, and nearly 500 charities benefited.

In the North East, £50,000 was raised for Childline, and more than 400 staff have undertaken a walk across Wales. Hundreds of staff have raised funds for Children in Need, and the total proceeds of the scheme are expected to exceed £2 million this year.

The employee volunteer scheme was launched last year in five pilot areas. In Leeds, one is to encourage employees to raise funds for charities, which commits the bank to matching their efforts pound for pound. The other is to support voluntary work by its staff when they want to help their fellow citizens.

Barclays reports that both schemes have helped to improve staff morale, and that enthusiasm has spread to senior staff. Directors of the bank, including Andrew Buxton, the chairman, have been taking a direct part in the programme.

British Gas the handy helper

COMMUNITY



A British Gas handyman checks the locks

BRITISH GAS is an organisation that could do with a boost to its corporate image—compare and contrast the salary of Richard Giordano, its chairman, with the problems experienced by customers trying to phone their local service department.

Now the company has joined forces with Age Concern England to provide help for old people with tasks that might otherwise be beyond them. The scheme was started in January after six months of detailed discussions.

It is intended to cover the

sort of everyday jobs that old people are unable to manage but which are usually too small for them to obtain assistance. An example might be changing a light bulb, a simple task for an able-bodied person but not for somebody crippled with rheumatism. The bulb might go in the middle of winter darkness in the kitchen of someone living alone without friends, family or neighbours to come to his or her aid.

The scheme also encompasses more skilled and difficult jobs, such as retiling a

bathroom or placing security locks on windows. One volunteer fitted 64 security locks in a block of flats as part of the project.

The scheme is mainly operated by middle-aged to elderly but still active volunteers, who often befriend the people they help and who benefit themselves from feeling that they are performing a useful and valued role in their community.

There are at present eight pilot schemes in England, and one each in Scotland and Wales, and it is hoped to extend it nationwide. British Gas has so far committed £100,000, and has delegated two members of its head office staff to work with local community relations advisers.

College flower power blooms

SMALL BUSINESS

A LINK-UP between S.R. Allen, a wholesale florist in New Covent Garden, and Lewisham College, in south-east London, gives students with learning difficulties the chance to work independently and to prove their potential to future employers.

The company supplies large quantities of flowers that the students would not otherwise be able to afford for their floral displays and arrangements for them to visit New Covent Garden in Vauxhall, southwest London, to see how the market operates.

The students attend the college for one year and plan the launch of a company in the flower packaging sector in which they sell shares to raise initial capital. At the end of the academic year the company is liquidated and then relaunched in the autumn as

nesses work, discover business and social skills, and acquire experience of working with adults outside their home or college environment. By gaining an understanding of personal and group responsibility they grow in confidence and self esteem.



Congratulations to
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1996
DRAGON
AWARD

from
THE GATEWAY PARTNERS



BUSINESS in the COMMUNITY

in association with the

Corporation of London

congratulate the winners of

The 1996 Lord Mayor of London's Dragon Awards

for business involvement in the community.

"Companies have undertaken many innovative and well targeted projects which will be an inspiration and guide to those companies not yet active in their communities."

The Rt.Hon. The Lord Mayor of London, Sir John Chalfrey



1996

Organised by
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Tarmac

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Winners of the Community
Development Award

To enter the 1997 Dragon Awards telephone Claire Anderson at
Business in the Community on 0171 224 1600

BRIDISCO



1996

ONE DRAGON AWARD - ONE BIG THANK YOU

To all our staff and the teachers and students of Haringey who worked so hard to make the Bridisco Education Challenge such a success for everyone.



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EDUCATION

Always time to play the learning game



Robbie Fowler, Liverpool's goal-scoring wizard

Ajax Amsterdam won the European Cup in 1995 with a young and brilliant team. In 1996, in spite of a spate of serious injuries to key players, they reached the final and lost in a penalty shoot-out. They recruit the best young footballers in Holland at a very early age and focus on developing their skills. The club also insists that their young recruits take school seriously. Their progress as footballers is associated with their willingness to take their education seriously. The club coach argues that a player who is clever off the field is more likely to be clever on it.

Soon after I read about Ajax, I read what Robbie Fowler, the young Liverpool goal-scoring wizard, said to *The Times* on March 9, 1996, about his prospects of playing for England. He based his argument on a comparison with young Patrick Kluivert of Ajax, who had already made an impact on the Dutch national side. If he can do it at that age, Fowler implied, why can't I?

Why not, indeed? The boy is brilliant. He scores instinctively with both feet and his head. The difference between Fowler and Kluivert, however, may be less a

Professor Michael Barber explains the importance of an education culture which covers every area of life, from football and television to the workplace

question of footballing skill and more one of whether they have joined the learning society.

Kluivert, brought up at Ajax, is, of course, a fully paid-up member. Fowler, however, had this to say to *The Times*: "I haven't really got a clue about anything but football and scoring goals. I wasn't totally stupid at school, but near enough."

This quotation sends questions reeling across my brain. Did he see success as something to be achieved through school or in spite of it? What is Liverpool football club doing to educate him now?

A learning culture must, after all, mean finding learning in the most unlikely places, even at Liverpool Football Club or, in extremis, at Arsenal. At present, while Ajax has anticipated the learning society, Liverpool, for all the beauty of their football in 1996, appear locked in the 20th century. Every football club — every organisation in Britain — needs to think again.

Will Hutton, in his book *The State We're In*, argues that it is not sufficient to rely on individ-

ual firms being effective: it is also necessary to create the institutional and cultural context which makes it more likely that they will thrive. My argument is that this applies — perhaps even more strongly — to our educational success and to our efforts to give birth to the learning society.

I believe there are no-cost or low-cost changes which could help to change that cultural context. One relates to the almost unimaginably dull subject of company annual reports. They should be required to include a substantial section on what the company has done that year to promote the creation of the learning society. Companies' prime responsibility is to learning among their own workforce: the annual report should be required to report who has learnt what and why; how many have learnt how much and what for; what the annual expenditure on education per employee is; and what the plans are to extend learning in the future.

Almost as important is the responsibility companies have to



Professor Barber: proposals

promote learning more generally in the community. Many firms take young people on work experience, others sponsor schools and some provide mentors for young people who are considered at risk.

Annual reports should tell us all about this beneficial activity. The companies that whinge about educational standards and make no contribution should be

shamed into having something to report.

The second change I want to propose is to the role of the media. They clearly play a vital role in providing information and education, but what are they doing consciously to promote the creation of a learning society? I believe they could do much more.

Two examples of how should suffice. One is with regard to children's programming. Children are served up a great deal of what can only be called pap.

There are some examples of excellent children's television and the BBC has recently expanded its provision of children's drama. The problem is that children are more likely to watch adult television than they are to watch the television that is programmed for them. The programmes that drew the biggest audiences in the four to 14 age group in early 1996 were *Gladiators*, *Neighbours*, *Casualty*, *The National Lottery Live*, *EastEnders* and *Coronation Street*.

It is impossible to turn the clock back, but surely it should be possible to alter the market

forces that create the current tawdry state of affairs, so that children are better served? Government could change the criteria for the ITV franchises when they are next up for renewal. A strong emphasis on worthwhile programming for children could be written in. Similar criteria could be applied to the BBC.

This approach could also be used to encourage direct promotion of the learning society. I avidly watch BBC2's *Video Nation* shorts. These one-minute slogs from the Community Programmes Unit provide fleeting insights into the lives of ordinary people. What if a proportion of them actively promoted learning? An adult who has recovered self-confidence through returning to learning? There are so many possibilities. And suppose they were shown not at 10.29pm, just before *Newsnight*, but at 7.29pm, just before *EastEnders*?

The time has come for everyone, even Robbie Fowler, to join the learning game.

● Professor Barber is Dean of New Initiatives at the Institute of Education in London. This article is adapted from his book, *The Learning Revolution: Arguments for an Education Revolution*, to be published by Gillman on November 7, hardback £25, paperback £12.99.

Stop tinkering, and tailor for the future

When I became Prime Minister, I was well aware that many parents were disgruntled about the teaching methods at some state schools. Employers were complaining about a lack of basic skills in literacy and numeracy. Shortcomings in science and mathematics were being widely reported, especially the failure of girls to take up these subjects. I invited Fred Mulley, my Education Secretary, in for a talk and asked: "Is the teaching of the three Rs satisfactory?"

From these beginnings, my Ruskin speech in 1976 emerged and the Great Debate on Education took off. It has not stopped since; there has been new legislation, much controversy, many changes and some improvement — but our educational problems are not resolved.

They are more urgent than they were 20 years ago. Educational progress has been marred by the Government's dogmatic market-driven ideology, by its dislike of local authorities and by its general disrespect for public servants and public service.

Lord Callaghan of Cardiff looks at the schools system, 20 years after he started the Great Debate

In our schools, teachers, who are the key to success or failure, feel undervalued and unfairly criticised. One of every five students leaves school without the means to do the most basic jobs, according to the government schools audit, set up by Michael Heseltine.

If educational standards are not raised, this country will be doomed to have a permanently unemployed underclass. We must stop tinkering with school structures, such as bringing back grammar schools or promoting selection, and address the real problem: the need to recruit more and better-qualified teachers with adequate resources to raise standards.

A head teacher of an excellent comprehensive recently said to me: "The major challenge is not choice and diversity for the able, but how we raise the standards of the bottom 40 per cent."



Lord Callaghan: priorities

Our problem is not with the education of outstandingly clever pupils, but with how better to equip all children of average ability. It is not necessary for the educational success of bright children to separate them from the rest. This separation is a serious handicap to building an all-embracing civil society.

We should not dismiss the instinct of parents to do the best for their children. Private education will decline only as, and when, the state system improves. That means smaller class sizes and higher standards. The number of hours in the school working term, should be lengthened to enable children to study a broader curriculum.

There is still a tendency to assume that children from poorer areas cannot be expected to aim high. Positive discrimination is wholly justified to level up the gross inequality in opportunity. The inadequate level of resources in such schools should be increased and there should be study groups, along the lines of the novel Prince's Trust action programme, to enable children to do homework where there is no room at home.

We should not countenance rigid barriers between private and state schools. I would require local education authorities and independent schools in appropriate areas to prepare schemes for a closer relationship by sharing best practice, by mixing teaching at

certain levels, by sharing the use of resources and by other joint activities to bring about a more unified system in the medium term. A closer relationship will help to raise standards all round.

The narrow A-level qualification should be pensioned off and replaced. One possibility is the establishment of a baccalaureate for 16 to 19-year olds, which could include academic and vocational studies.

Great damage was done to educational progress in the 1980s by the alienation of teachers, who have a right to expect their opinions to be given more weight. A General Teaching Council, a statutory body established by an act of parliament, could monitor the development of educational practice and serve as an appeals tribunal when professional standards are in dispute.

Inefficient head teachers should be made redundant if they cannot improve. All this adds up to a big bill for the next government. Withdrawing funding for the assisted-places scheme, as the Labour Party proposes, will help, but far more money — billions of pounds — will be needed.

I do not blame Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, for refusing to allow the Conservative Party and the media to pin him down on tax increases. He is right to wait until he sees the Treasury books. But he will be in no doubt that a big bill must be paid if Britain's children are to have the high level of education and training needed in the 21st century.

That money must be found. The cost will have to be spread over many years but it is important that hope should not be so long deferred that disillusionment sets in. Early in the life of the next government, Labour should put to the nation an all-round programme and a timetable for implementation. It should propose an early beginning, with universal nursery schooling and improved standards in the most disadvantaged schools.

These are my priorities and I live in hope of seeing them fulfilled.



Banking on a good degree

Whichever party forms the next government it will face pressure to resume the expansion of higher education after a four-year freeze. Business leaders have been lobbying for increased participation and it will be surprising if Sir Ron Dearing's review of the sector does not agree within a few months of the new ministerial team taking office. Should it be Labour, there will be a manifesto commitment to growth in any case.

But the fledgling administration will face conflicting pressures, chief among them a need to keep the lid on public spending. And, with bigger student loans and possibly tuition fees on the way, the already sluggish demand for full-time university places may begin to go into reverse.

All the signs point to a further boost for part-time higher education, especially if a new deal on student finance provides tangible support for such courses for the first time. One model which has already caught Sir Ron's eye got the go-ahead this week, when the Chartered Institute of Bankers (CIB) signed a novel agreement with the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology (UMIST). By offering a new tailored degree for the institute's members in banking and other financial services, UMIST will

John O'Leary on the learning link that paves the way to the future

treble the number of students on its books. The CIB will become the UK's biggest private provider of higher education, giving bankers a fully portable qualification for the first time, and enabling those who have already received the institute's associateship to upgrade to a degree.

As one of the UK's top business schools, UMIST has built in tight safeguards to ensure that its standards are not compromised. An Open University-style combination of distance learning and personal contact is designed to do this without swamping what is still a relatively small institution.

Other professions are taking great interest in the initiative, and it will not be long before some follow suit. The result could be a revolution in professional training, which would have the welcome side-effect of helping to meet ministerial aspirations on qualification levels without causing a drain on the public purse.

Nor is there any reason to restrict the model to national boundaries. Like other professional bodies, the CIB has thousands of members in 31 overseas countries, all of whom will have the same opportunities as their British

counterparts if acceptable partner institutions can be found abroad.

Ten thousand people from all parts of the industry are embarking on a BSc in financial services this month. Their qualification will be awarded jointly by the institute and UMIST, which designed the course, but most will be taught at a local university. Ten universities, from Exeter to Sheffield Hallam, have joined the scheme and more will be added to fill in the geographical gaps.

Where a particular option is not available locally, the CIB will offer distance-learning packages validated by Kent University. Overseas students will also use this system if there is no recognised centre in their country.

Students will take five core subjects and three options, with 30 per cent of marks coming through coursework. A work-related project will account for one-twelfth of the credits needed for a degree.

Gavin Shreeve, the institute's chief executive, says: "The days when somebody joined the bank, did the exams and rose through the hierarchy to be-

come the branch manager have gone. There is more movement throughout the industry — 140,000 jobs have gone in banking in the past five years and more are to go — so people want a qualification they can use, whatever direction their career takes."

Partly as a result of the recent shrinkage, the institute's membership has dropped from 130,000 to 75,000. Mr Shreeve acknowledges that the CIB associateship had ceased to be seen as relevant, but he expects the degree to trigger a revival.

All the leading banks are supporting the scheme, offering interest-free loans to employees and reimbursing them on successful completion of each module. For those having to pay their own way, the costs will be £60 for registration and £425 a subject, which includes study materials.

Inevitably, some CIB members who have no wish to upgrade their associateship consider that their qualification is being devalued. But the reaction of most has been enthusiastic, and 1,600 have already applied to take the extra courses necessary to acquire a degree. The institute is now exploring the possibility of an MSc. In corporate finance with UMIST, as well as planning specialist undergraduate diplomas to feed into the degree programme.

Students are being encouraged to take school subjects in a European language other than English

A study in total immersion

STUDENTS are more likely to learn geography or physics in French or German as schools try to give priority to learning foreign languages for a generation who will need to be more Euro-literate than their parents.

The 1990s approach to teaching languages focuses on the learner: teaching the way students want to learn. A vast amount of energy is being put into developing modern-language training, underlining the importance attached by the Government and business to linguistic ability.

Bob Powell, director of the language centre at Warwick University, believes that there is no best way of teaching a language because people remember in different ways. Accordingly, teachers use a

range of approaches, but put more emphasis on immersing students in the new language.

From 1998, GCSE examinations will be written almost entirely in the chosen language and the new generation of textbooks contains very little English. The idea, Mr Powell says, is to give students more exposure to the language and to encourage them to communicate.

"Language needs to be used as a means to obtain other information. If we can get students interested in the purpose of the language, that becomes the focus. We have found it is the best way," he says.

How to motivate British students to learn French, Spanish or German when English is spoken around the world is part of the work being conducted by Do Coyle, a lecturer in modern language teacher education at the University of Nottingham.

"The British have never had a particularly good reputation for learning languages," she says. "At Nottingham, we concentrate on the advantages in terms of communication, and we train teachers to teach their subject in languages other than their own."

The Franco-British course at the university aims to recruit teachers who can work

anywhere in Western Europe. From next year, geography, history and science teachers will learn another language.

European schools have run bilingual classes for years and the few that do so here say the advantages are enormous. To prepare them for the international workplace, students at Hockley Anglo-European School in Bishop Stortford, Hertfordshire, are taught geography, information technology and poetry in French from the age of 14. They exchange places with French pupils and complete part of their curriculum in France.

At William Ellis School in

northwest London, boys are taught geography in Spanish and have responded well, says John Forrest, the geography teacher, a Spanish speaker. "Normal language teaching can be very repetitive. The boys seem to like doing something that is more real."

Boys are more likely to drop a language at school, according to Professor Eric Hawkins, editor of *30 Years of Language Learning*, launched by the Centre for Information on Language Teaching and Research yesterday. Only one in 13 boys continues to learn a language in the sixth form. Activity-based learning and the use of

technology are two ways that appeal to boys, reviving their interest in languages.

A £50,000 multimedia centre dedicated to language learning was launched last week at Lancaster Royal Grammar School for Boys in Lancashire, where there are plans to hold video conferences to allow classes to speak to pupils in France. David Leckey, head of modern languages, says more boys show an interest in languages now. "The process makes learning more fun. In the past, they would just come into the classroom, listen, leave and that was it. Being able to e-mail a question to France and get an almost immediate response makes learning more enjoyable."

JENNAI COX

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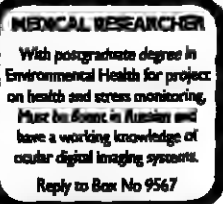
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Further particulars and application forms may be obtained from the Executive Secretary, Japan Foundation Endowment Committee, c/o the University of Sheffield, Fifth Court, Western Bank, Sheffield S10 2TN, by whom completed forms must be received by Friday 1 November 1996 at the latest.

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GOLF: CONFIDENT SCOTSMAN FINDS EXTRA LENGTH OFF TEE TO REACH SECOND ROUND AT WENTWORTH

Montgomerie drives past Woosnam

BY JOHN HOPKINS
GOLF CORRESPONDENT

SOMETHING has happened to Colin Montgomerie. While we were not looking, the Scotsman has dug deep into his locker and found himself another 15 yards from the tee.

Europe's leading money-winner these past four years has turned himself from an accurate driver and a very good putter into a very long and straight hitter with a wonderful putting touch. With these extra yards, he dubbed Ian Woosnam to defeat in their first round match in the Toyota World Match Play championship at Wentworth.

"I drove as well as I ever have today," Montgomerie said. "In matchplay, you have a freedom that you don't have in strokeplay. I used my driver on both the 6th and the 10th whereas, in strokeplay, I might not have because of the risk of taking a six. In matchplay, the worst that can happen is to lose the hole."

You only had to see how Big

DETAILS

FIRST ROUND RESULTS (36 holes): S. Stricker (US) to S. Thompson (AUS) 3 and 2; C. Montgomerie (GB) to I. Woosnam (GB) 3 and 2; M. O'Meara (US) to N. Sainsbury (AUS) 7 and 5; V. Singh (PH) to P. Mickelson (US) 1 hole.

QUARTER-FINAL DRAW (36 holes): 08.16 and 12.30: (1) E. S. S. v. Stricker; 08.30 and 12.45: (4) M. Brooks (US) v. Montgomerie; 08.45 and 13.00: S. Jones (US) v. Singh; 08.00 and 13.15: (2) J. Lahman (US) v. O'Meara.

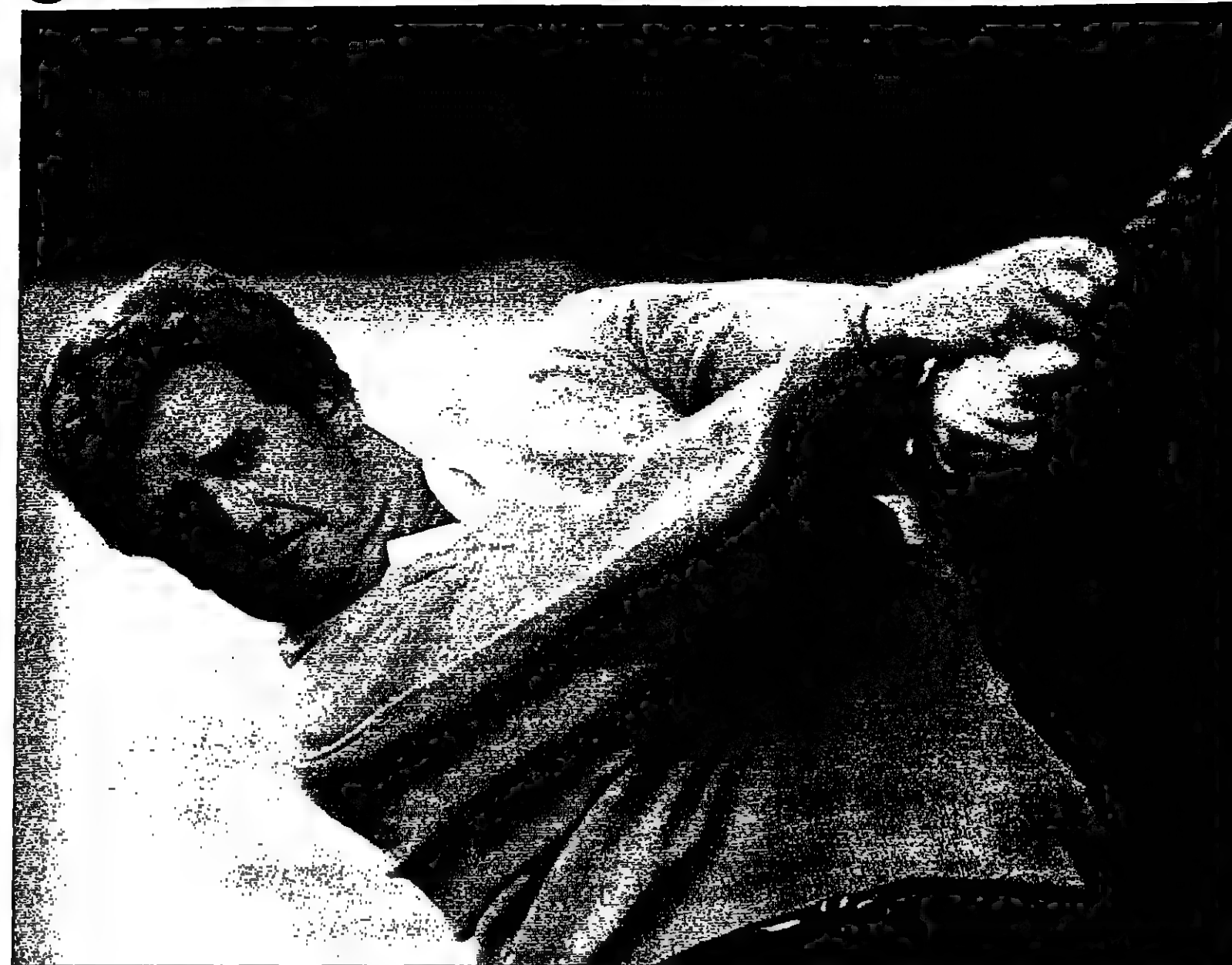
Seeded positions in brackets.

Monty outdrove Little Woosie, which despite their disparity in height and weight is against the conventional wisdom, on seven of the last eight holes of his morning round to realise the truth of that. Even Woosnam was impressed.

"Colin drives the ball good and straight," Woosnam said. "I was hitting it quite nicely, but he was sometimes 30 yards past me. That is a long way."

Accurate driving is more important on the West course than at many courses because the greens have to be approached from the correct side of the fairway. It was noticeable on a glorious sunlit autumn day that those players who drove well won, while those that did not, lost.

The foundations of Steve Stricker's comeback against Steve Elkington, which resulted in the promising American winning by 3 and 2, were in



Montgomerie's long, straight driving was the key to a first-round victory over Woosnam at Wentworth yesterday. Photograph: Ian Stewart

his length and accuracy from the tee. Stricker's reward is a match against Ernie Els, the defending champion. Stricker has now won six matches in succession, five at St Andrews and one here, while Els has played six matches over two years in this event and won them all.

Mark O'Meara made only one mistake in his trouncing of Nobuo Serizawa by 7 and 5. "I drove well," O'Meara admitted. Vijay Singh was five up after seven holes and then had to face some typically theatrical touches from Phil Mickelson, including watching the American almost hole

from a bunker on the 36th, before he won by one hole.

"I drove the ball beautifully today," Singh said. "You have to do that on this course. When I play here I feel that I score well when I drive well, and I did so today." With all this talk among the competitors about long and straight driving, it is as well this event is sponsored by a car manufacturer.

The secret of Montgomerie's length is simply that because he expects every tee shot to go straight he is no longer constrained by even the slightest doubt that the ball will not go straight. "I have got more confidence than ever and that

enables me to hit it harder," Montgomerie explained, thereby confusing every golfer who has ever been taught that the way to hit the ball further is not to try to hit it harder.

There was evidence of Montgomerie's extra length on the 21st hole, where his drive must have travelled more than 300 yards uphill. On a 452-yard hole, described in the programme as the toughest on the course, Montgomerie had only 140 yards left for his second shot, a flick with an eight-iron. He sank the putt to go two up.

The way that Woosnam was walking, it did not look as

though he is contemplating surgery on his back. Nor did it look as though his legs would be aching from the moment they reached the first fairway, as he had forecast that they would. In his white polo neck sweater, blue trousers that were an inch or two too long, he bustled along, sometimes swinging his right hand as if it were on a club, at other times cupping a cigarette inside his hand.

Woosnam's back may be a talking point but it is no laughing matter. Backs never are. It appeared to be making him swing too quickly, as demonstrated with his second

shot on the 12th — a low, rather ugly looking iron that flew left — his tee shot on the 13th and the drive he sent hooking wildly into a garden adjoining the 17th fairway.

What with his sore back, Montgomerie's extra length and his putting, Woosnam was up against it the longer the match went on. The stronger, better player usually triumphs over 36 holes and, from that birdie on the 21st, Montgomerie was in control.

Today he faces Mark Brooks and such is his confidence level that he described himself as favourite to win "if I drive as well as I did today".

CRICKET

Blossoming Flower ends charge by Shahid

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

SHEKHUPURA (first day of five, Zimbabwe won toss): Zimbabwe have scored 240 for six wickets against Pakistan

GRANT FLOWER, the Zimbabwe opening batsman, led a dogged recovery by his side and finished two short of a century on the opening day of the first Test match against Pakistan in Sheikhupura yesterday. However, he had to share the limelight with Shahid Nazir, the Pakistan pace bowler, who marked his debut with three wickets and a run out.

Flower and Paul Strang, who is 37 not out, hauled Zimbabwe back from 142 for six to 240 for six at the close. Zimbabwe were plunged into trouble by Nazir after they won the toss and opted to bat on a grassless pitch at the Sheikhupura Stadium, hosting its first Test to become Pakistan's eleventh, and the world's 75th, Test match ground.

Nazir, 19, took a wicket with his fourth ball and two more in consecutive balls to finish with three for 35 at the end of his first day in Test cricket.

After Wasim Akram, the captain, made the initial breakthrough by having Mark Dekker leg-before for 14, Nazir took his first wicket when he dismissed Alistair Campbell, the Zimbabwe captain, leg-before for eight.

Flower and David Houghton repaired the early damage, but four wickets were lost for the addition of 64 in the second session. Nazir ended the third-wicket stand of 78 when he ran out Houghton and then returned to remove Andy Flower and Craig Wishart with successive balls.

Grant Flower, who compiled 201 against Pakistan at Harare in the 1994-95 series, hit 11 fours and a six and has faced 264 balls. Play was twice stopped briefly after spectators, angered at the exclusion of Aqib Javed, the pace bowler, pelted fielders with stones.

ZIMBABWE: First innings: G.W. Flower not out 98, M.H. DeSilva 14, A.D.R. Campbell 10, Shahid Nazir 35, D.L. Houghton 14, P. Strang 11, J.A. Flower 10, C. Wishart 10, S. Jones 0, G.J. White 0, S. S. S. 0, P.A. Strang not out 37. Extras: (b 9, lb 14, nb 5, w 1) 29. Total: (240, 65.1 overs) 240.

PAKISTAN: Wasim Akram 19-0-21-1, Waqar Younis 15-3-61-0, Shahid Nazir 19-2-35-3, Saqlain Mushtaq 19-3-88-1, Amir Sohail 6-0-22-0.

PAKISTAN: Wasim Akram, Amir Sohail, Saqlain Mushtaq, Waqar Younis, Shahid Nazir, Imran Khan, Wasim Akram, Saqlain Mushtaq, Shahid Nazir.

UNPAID: David Graham (South Africa), Krunal Hayil (Pakistan).

IN BRIEF

England in hurry to take on S Africa

ENGLAND women's team, seeded No 2, crushed Finland, the No 12 seeds, in just 35 minutes yesterday in the quarter-finals of the Perrier world team squash championship in Petaling Jaya, Malaysia.

South Africa edged past Holland on the neighbouring court to reach England's semi-final. The second semi-final will involve Australia, the No 1 seeds, who yesterday cruised past Scotland, the No 11 seeds, who were resting Senga Macfie, their leading player.

Scherer leads

Equestrianism: Rudophe Scherer took a 4.2-point lead at the end of the first day's dressage at the popular Le Lion d'Angers three-day event in France — the last international of the season — with Rodney Powell and Flintstone lying second, the best of the British, and in equal third, Eddy Sibbe, riding Kilkea Castle — the former Holgate horse — and Herve Ledoux and Arno, with only six points between them.

Ian Stark, Ginny Elliott, Kristina Clifford and Pippa Funnell, of Britain, compete today, with the latter two making up the British team with Rodney Powell and Jeanette Breakwell.

Simpson creates

Hockey: Rhona Simpson, the striker, fashioned Scotland's 5-0 victory over Jamaica early yesterday at Port of Spain, in Trinidad, in their opening match of the World Cup women's preliminary round tournament. Scotland had Jamaica on the run for the entire 70 minutes.

Bowlers reign

Cricket: South Africa beat India by 47 runs in the first of the one-day triangular series in Hyderabad yesterday. Batting first, South Africa scored 261 for seven in the allotted 50 overs, but India were no match for the South Africa bowling attack and were all out for 214 in 46.2 overs. Australia are the other team playing in the tournament.

Davis ahead

Golf: Brian Davis, of England, scored an opening six-under-par 66 to earn a one-shot lead in the European Challenge Tour's end-of-season event, the UAP grand final, at Quinta do Peru, near Lisbon, in Portugal, yesterday. Davis, who honed his competitive skills on the American mini tours, had a run of five consecutive birdies and picked up two more birdies in the last three holes.

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SNOOKER

O'Kane left feeling off colour

BY PHIL YATES

DENE O'KANE and Nick Walker will find it difficult to forget the manner of their demise at the £330,000 Grand Prix in Bournemouth yesterday. The defeat of both supported that well-worn cliché: a match is never over until the last ball is potted.

Walker, from Chester, was on the threshold of earning a television debut when he established a 4-0 lead over Anthony Hamilton. A little over two hours later, he trudged disconsolately from the arena, having lost 5-4 on the final black.

While the disappointment felt by Walker was acute, it did not equal that of O'Kane, an urbane New Zealander, who said he had been "mugged" after suffering a 5-4 first-round defeat against Billy Snaddon, of Scotland.

O'Kane led 4-3 and by 37 points in the eighth frame with only four colours remaining when the balls began to conspire against him. He knocked in the black attempting to pot the brown, went in-off in potting the blue and failed to escape from a snooker. Snaddon sank blue, pink and black to level at 4-4 and put together a run of 45 in the ninth frame to edge through.

"The balls obviously got it in their minds that I wasn't going to win at any cost," O'Kane said. Snaddon, who now meets Oliver King, a surprise 5-1 winner over Nigel Bond, said: "Over the years, you see the odd match like that, but you never imagine that you'll be involved in something as silly."

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SCIENCE ARTS LANGUAGES BOOKS

Shares end below day's highs

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

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RUGBY LEAGUE: GREAT BRITAIN SCRUM HALF READY FOR IMPORTANT TEST OF GROWING MATURITY AGAINST NEW ZEALAND

Goulding's reform drives pride of Lions

FROM CHRISTOPHER IRVINE IN AUCKLAND

BOBBIE GOULDING has always led with his heart. Sometimes, the head follows. Self-confidence drives him. Without that powerful elixir, he can shrivel, and, on tour so far, Goulding, the Great Britain scrum half, has veered between some notable highs and the occasional low.

Take Goulding's place-kicking. In Papua New Guinea and Fiji, he barely missed a goal; 16 successes from 20 attempts is impressive marksmanship. Yet, in New Zealand, the ball is less rounded, the texture different, and he could not make the adjustment, hence the excuses. His brain went the way of his kicking. Nothing was on target.

Phil Larder, the Britain coach, said: "The ball didn't roll right, it bounced back, and he couldn't even keep the thing on its tee. We pulled him off in the first match here. He was up first thing the next morning knocking on my door and wanting to go kicking. The confidence is back, but when it goes, Bobbie can curl up. With it, he's unstoppable."

There is no happy medium with Goulding. He is all boyish optimism, or tormented soul. The latter, fortunately, is rare nowadays and the player who has turned over more leaves than an autumn gale is finally reformed now and fulfilling all expectations without compromising the precociousness that used to bring him trouble off the field.

As a survivor of the 2-1 series victory in New Zealand, in 1990, the tones that he assumed on the eve of the first international, in Auckland today, were those of elder statesmen, at 24. "We were written off then as a young side with little hope," he said. "The situation is similar, but we're drilling into these young lads

that, yes, we can do it. New Zealand fancied themselves in 1990; look what happened."

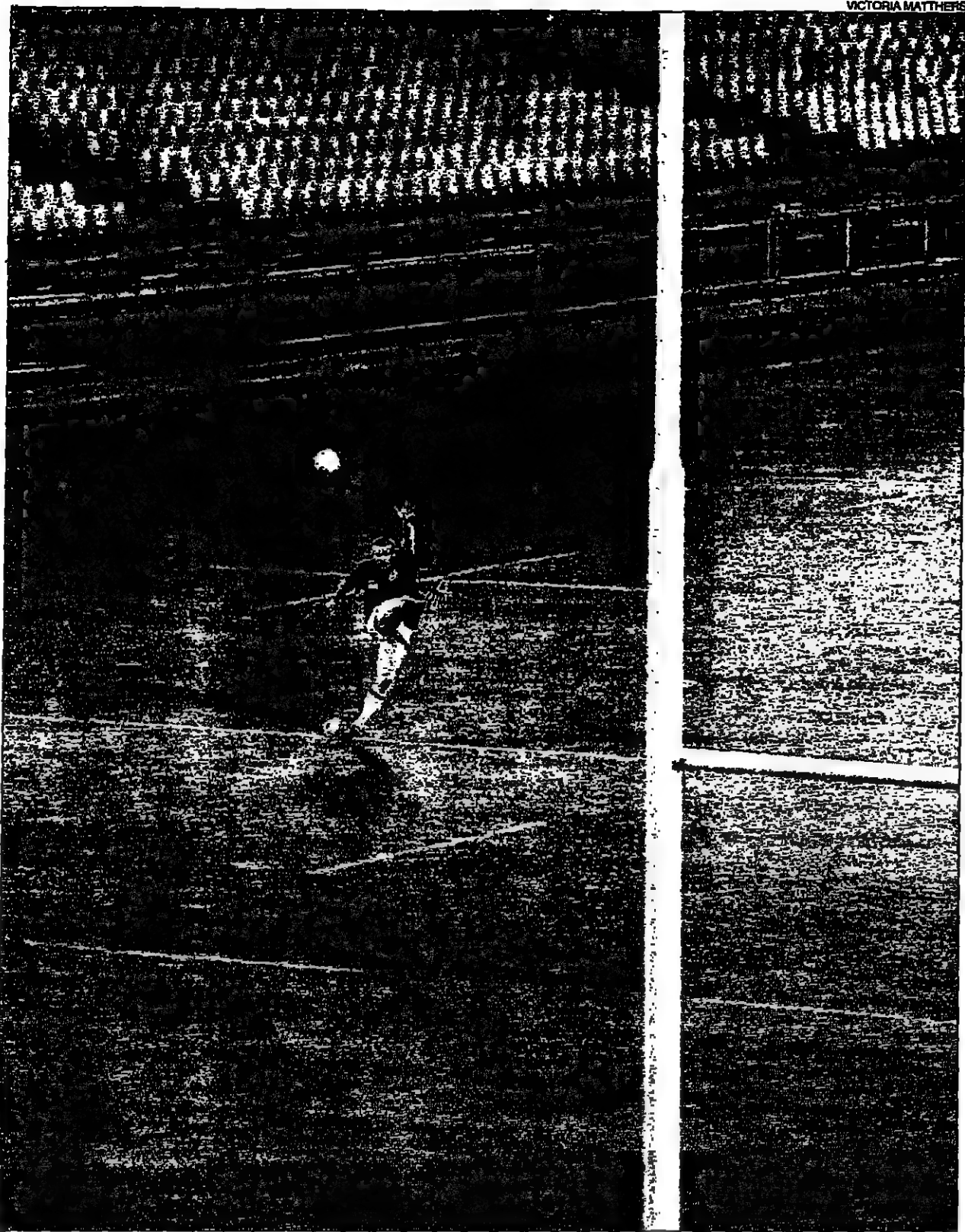
New Zealand have indulged in Lions baiting — "Here, kiddy, kiddy, kiddy" was the headline on a newspaper advertisement for the opening match at Ericsson Stadium — which brought a typical response from Goulding. He found the nearest photocopying machine and intends to paste the words up as a pre-match motivational aid.

The New Zealand press has been treated warily by Goulding since it raised the ancient history of his assault charge on the 1990 visit. Otherwise, his demeanour is outwardly cheerful, inwardly, he is steely-minded, however, and determined to play it the way Larder wants. That means no mistakes, holding field position and Goulding, relieved of the pressure applied by the presence of Shaun Edwards, using what Larder calls the best pair of hands in the country.

In an often bitter personal battle, Goulding has moved only occasionally out of Edwards's shadow. Not, however, as decisively as now. Edwards, the Wigan scrum half, has had knee surgery, has turned 30 and his St Helens counterpart can retain the position for the visit of Australia next year and the 1998 World Cup, provided that he can mastermind another series win in New Zealand.

Six years ago, Goulding blossomed on tour under the wing of Garry Schofield. Apprentice has turned master to Iestyn Harris, 20, in what could become a permanent half-back alliance at St Helens if the club can strike a deal with Warrington for Harris, who is listed at £1.35 million.

In describing Harris, Goulding might be referring



Goulding diligently practises his goal-kicking at the Ericsson Stadium, the venue for the match against New Zealand

to his own youth. "He's such a confident kid," he said. "He's got the attitude, too, to be a great player. I have never known someone as young as confident. Everyone thought we'd go boom together. It's not quite been like that. It takes a few games, but I know already he'll die for me and I'll die for him." Not so long ago, the thought of putting someone younger in Goulding's charge would have caused many to blanch. All that is in the past. In the first two international victories, Goulding and Harris showed their ability to vary

their games. Against Papua New Guinea, it was a case of kick and keep it tight. In Fiji, they opened up spectacularly. They can be too clever, of course, and New Zealand look like an exceptional side.

Goulding is under no illusions and his respect for New Zealand is reciprocated. An admirer button-holed him at the team hotel yesterday. He brought a souvenir from the 1990 tour and Goulding obliged with his signature. One New Zealander went away happy. Goulding hopes that he is the only one.

Court case starts fixture avalanche

FROM CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

A FRENZY of fixture organising after the Super League's recent Appeal Court victory in Sydney has filled the international calendar for two years. As well as the much-vaunted world club championship, the World Cup will now be in the southern hemisphere and has been moved back to 1998 so that Australia can tour England in October and November next year.

The plans mapped out by the International Super League Board (ISLB) in Auckland yesterday are unashamedly ambitious. Together with the world club championship, which will consist of all Super League teams in Great Britain, Australia and New Zealand, they would propel rugby league into another dimension. John Ribot, the Australasian Super League chief executive, said:

"The tour by Australia, at a traditional time of year, will include three international matches against Britain and at least three games against clubs. It will follow the domestic season and the conclusion to the world club championship in Australia. The latter is proving more difficult to organise, because of the series of cross-hemisphere mini tours by clubs to face one another on a home-and-away basis."

A repeat of the 1995 World Cup in Britain, in 1997, always looked like bad planning. Australia will host the rescheduled 1998 tournament, although New Zealand and Papua New Guinea will have home advantage in their group games. The number of participants has to be decided, but it seems inevitable that a unified Britain team, rather than England and Wales, as they were last time, will take part.

If Wales are not already doomed by the returnees to rugby union, then the announcement that the European championship will almost certainly be shelved might prove to be the end for them.

Green is back in England frame

BY A CORRESPONDENT

AFTER four years of self-imposed exile in the international wilderness, Jo Green has been given the chance to resurrect her England career. She has accepted an invitation to attend national squad training at Bisham Abbey this weekend.

When Green first made a name for herself as an under-16 schoolgirl international in 1989, she was hailed as one of the most promising talents to emerge since Karen Brown, the outstanding England and Great Britain midfielder player.

As well as scoring more hat-tricks than most players manage in a lifetime, Green went on to earn honours at every level for the England senior indoor and outdoor teams. Then, disheartened and disillusioned, she neglected her fitness, put on weight and dropped out.

Refreshed and revitalised, Green, 23, returned to playing in the National League with Chelmsford this season, but was surprised when the letter from Maggie Souyave, the England coach, arrived. Green's reply was one of the first to reach Souyave.

"I'm definitely ambitious again," a more relaxed Green said after a tiring fortnight in her first teaching post in London. "I'm really enjoying club hockey again. I don't intend giving up this time."

Green is one of several younger players who have a chance to prove themselves, with Jane Sibsmith and Brown among the more experienced internationals and Olympians resting until February.

Souyave will select a squad in February to begin preparing in earnest for the World Cup qualifying tournament in Harare, Zimbabwe, next August.

ENGLAND TRAINING SQUAD: C. Burr (Chilton), L. Cullford (Chilton), S. Blanks (Leicester), K. Bowden (Leicester), P. Miller (Leicester), J. Mould (Leicester), T. Cullen (Highway), G. Reed (Highway), N. Osborne (Leicester), L. King (Leicester), V. Sandell (Leicester), J. Empey (Canterbury), L. Copleland (Leicester), S. Eyre (Leicester), K. Smith (Leicester), S. Gibson (Leicester), J. James (Leicester), J. Green (Leicester). Unavailable this weekend: A. Bennett (Leicester), L. Cope (Leicester), L. Newcombe (Highway).

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

Last week, we looked at some situations where it was better to avoid leading "fourth highest of your longest and strongest" and today we are going to look at another. One question you should ask yourself before you make an opening lead against any contract is: "Should I be active or passive?"

Suppose your opponents bid 1 NT — 3 C — 3 NT. Your left-hand opponent's Three Club bid implies slam interest (else why introduce a minor suit) so it sounds as if they have plenty of values to spare. Left to their own devices, they will probably make nine tricks unless you have some very nasty surprises for them — extreme club shortage, for example. This is a good time to make an aggressive opening lead. Say that, after 1 NT — 3 C — 3 NT, you hold:

(♠) ♠KJ32
♥763
♦842
♣764

(♣) ♣8554
♥K76
♦762
♣Q4

On neither of these hands do your defensive prospects look good, and there is every reason to expect that declarer will make nine tricks, given time. So you should attack, and on hand (i) you lead a spade. Hand (ii) is more difficult. A lead from four small cards is a good bet if you want to be passive, but is not likely to go very far towards developing the five defensive tricks that you need, as partner is unlikely to hold great length in the suit. A better shot is to hope that he has a five-card heart suit along with an entry: try the six of hearts.

The time to make a passive opening lead is against a low-level no-trump contract, or one that has been reached after an invitational sequence, say 1 NT — 2 NT — 3 NT. If the opponents have bid some suits on the way to their no-trump contract, you will have more information. Suppose the bidding has gone 1 H — 1 S — 1 NT — 2 NT — 3 NT and you hold either:

(♠) ♠Q65
♥A62
♦764
♣K543

(♣) ♣43
♥AQ109
♦764
♣K543

On hand (i), although the opponents have had a limited auction, your hand does not look promising for the defence. Your queen of spades will be under dummy's holding in the suit and, although you do hold the ace of hearts, your lack of supporting cards suggests that declarer may be able to pick up any honours cards partner has in the suit. In addition, you know that both that partner has in the suit. There is every reason to expect that declarer will make his contract if left to his own devices and that is the time for an aggressive opening lead. Lead the three of clubs.

Hand (ii) is a very different matter, even though you have the same number of high-card points and the auction has been the same. This time, you expect partner to have spade values over dummy's; your heart holding may mean declarer can make no dummy's in the suit at all. Your prospects for defence are excellent; an aggressive player might have doubled. Lead a diamond.

□ The world teams Olympiad begins in Rhodes tomorrow. Watch this space for daily results.

□ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

- By Philip Howard
- DEME
a. A town
b. A judge
c. A second-year student
- EMPLECTON
a. A stringed instrument
b. Reading during meals
c. A kind of masonry
- DECUBITUS
a. Uncorkage
b. Half a cubit
c. Lying in bed
- ESTAPLE
a. A picture hook
b. A pointed shoe
c. A market
- Answers on page 50

KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Tilburg tournament

After five rounds of the elite Fontys tournament in Tilburg, Holland, Alexei Shirov, the former Latvian grandmaster (now representing Spain), has retained his lead with 3½ points. Michael Adams, of Great Britain, and Anatoly Karpov, the Fide champion, both have 2½. In the fifth round, Sutovsky, the dark horse of the tournament, won the following overwhelming attacking game against Van Wely, the Dutch grandmaster.

Black chose the popular Sicilian Defence, but White showed that, on occasion, even the crudest attacking methods can be highly effective. White simply massed his forces in front of Black's king and then dynamited his way through with sacrifices. In the final position, Black cannot defend his pawn on f7 from an irruption by White's rooks.

White: Sutovsky
Black: Van Wely
Tilburg, October 1996

Sicilian Defence

1 e4 c5
2 Nf3 c6
3 d4 cd4
4 Nxd4 Nf6
5 Nc3 a6
6 Be2 e6
7 f4 Be7

Diagram of final position

8 ♖e1 ♜f6
9 ♜d4 ♜f6
10 ♜d4 ♜f6
11 ♜d4 ♜f6
12 ♜d4 ♜f6
13 ♜d4 ♜f6
14 ♜d4 ♜f6
15 ♜d4 ♜f6
16 ♜d4 ♜f6
17 ♜d4 ♜f6
18 ♜d4 ♜f6
19 ♜d4 ♜f6
20 ♜d4 ♜f6
21 ♜d4 ♜f6
22 ♜d4 ♜f6
23 ♜d4 ♜f6
24 ♜d4 ♜f6

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Morozevich — Adianto, Amsterdam, 1996. Black had already given up before this position arose. White has two attractive ways to win. Can you spot either or, indeed, both?

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Diet of pies and more pies detracts from football feast at Selhurst Park

Wombles set scene for Pressman

The ability to make the best of things seems to be important in football. At Selhurst Park, when you take your seat for a Wimbledon game, you do not play Tina Turner's *Simply Deep*. But, cut-bucklingly loud on the public address (as they do at Wembley, making all the blood rush into your eye-sockets with excitement): they play *Remember You're a Womble* instead. It is a suitable theme for Wimbledon, actually, because it is resolutely cheerful and everyone hates it. Plus, of course, it holds an important message, a warning against hubris. Oh yes. In life, you must always remember what a wobble-womble you are.

I feel I could support Wimbledon. They have a sense of humour. When Efan Ekoku took the ball off Kevin Pressman, the Sheffield Wednesday goalkeeper, in the third minute last Saturday ("I'll have that, thanks, if you don't want it"), you had to see the funny side, but I was in the visitors' stand at the time, partly because Robert, my friend, is a Wednesday supporter, partly because it was a cheaper regular football supporting (it is ruinous), but mainly because — as the ticket office promised — there was "room to move about", which sounded attractive.

Seats are so packed together usually at football grounds that, when everybody stands up at once, some of us have no choice in the matter, you know — wedged at shoulder and thigh, we are just lifted up involuntarily, sometimes still in the sitting position.

So the stage was set on Saturday for Wimbledon (going up, up, up), and Sheffield Wednesday (preferring not to talk about it). The teams came on, we all cheered, the sun burst through dark cloud, the grass sparkled, Ekoku scored, and Wednesday (thank goodness) equalised immediately.

Wednesday played in a plucky orange, though were mysteriously billed in the programme to wear green. Meanwhile, the purposeful top-toe indigo of Wimbledon had such an intimidating effect, I wondered whether football strips should be tested on chimps and infants scientifically — to see whether exposure to certain colours makes

LYNNE TRUSS



Kicking and Screaming

them hide in corners and whimper.

The real difference between the sides, though, was not one I had expected. Whereas Wednesday seemed to play football with their feet (and Regi Blinker is an outstanding whizz), Wimbledon conducted the majority of the match with their heads, jumping up and jabbing the ball with their crania, evidently with no thought either to brain damage or to the irritating slowing of pace. It was most bizarre. In their possession, the ball scarcely touched the ground; it

'Opposing fans are not good at charity'

just sprang and soared off bones — from bean... to bean... to bean... to bean... until it threatened to get quite silly.

"There it goes!" I said at first, enjoying the novelty. "Hey, this is like watching the bouncing ball at the panto!" Imagine watching the progress of an enormous flea across an enormous carpet, and you can guess the effect on one's spirit (and neck muscles) after only a few minutes. "It's not fair, this," I said to Robert. "Wimbledon are all tall blokes! The Owls can't reach!" At which Robert smiled grimly and I knew I had voiced a truth.

As a six-goal match (4-2), it was pretty eventful, but the main interest for me was the

way these styles of playing just would not fit together. The worst thing, however, was when Wednesday likewise got their heads to the ball in mid-field, because then it just soared tiresomely back and forth between them, like a pinball ricochet in slow motion. Wimbledon's superiority in the air meant also that, when Wednesday gathered in the penalty area and the ball went up (usually a cue for great excitement), I would think "Oh don't do that, Wimbledon will get it." Which alas, was often true.

Overshadowing the whole match for the Wednesday supporters was that shameful first goal. When Pressman was caught unawares in mid-dawdle ("Hello ball, you're a nice ball, how are you today?"), Ekoku just knocked the ball clear and strolled goalwards, the picture of long-limbed insolence.

It is hard to recover from a humiliation like that; and opposing football fans are not good at charity, on the whole. They rarely sing "Cheer up, it could have happened to anyone". Every time a ball was passed back to Pressman for the rest of the match, of course, a sort of audible sneer (like a hiss) went up, which was most unpleasant.

Finally, returning to the question of ticket prices, this may be a silly question, but why is the food so dreadful at football grounds? Why, oh why, oh why? If people can afford £20 for a seat, why would they want to eat pies?

I bought a *Football Fan's Guide* the other day and, under the "food" heading for each of 92 grounds, it tells you in all seriousness whether the pies are hot or cold, what the cost of pies is, how many pies were tested, where to buy pies, and how much filling the pies have got.

Pies and more pies — I do not understand. The rest of British society has moved on; station concourses are now full of pockets of France and even pubs are known to dabble in goulash and drizzle, yet at football grounds (which are otherwise very keen to take money), the tea has lumps.

Why should we settle for this? In my *Football Fan's Guide*, the highest praise is reserved for drinks with lids on. I shall be starting a campaign shortly. Football must wake up to the baguette before it is too late.



Heads it's yours: in Wimbledon's possession, the ball scarcely touched the ground

BOWLS: FAILURE TO PROVE GLOBAL APPEAL LEADS TO LOSS OF PARALYMPIC STATUS

Disabled lose their place in Games

By DAVID RHYS JONES

LAWN bowls, a sport played by people with a wide range of disabilities, has been thrown out of the Paralympics, because the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) says that it is not played in sufficient countries.

Bowls has been played in every leading international sporting event for the disabled since the inaugural International Games for People with Disabilities at Stoke Mandeville in 1984, except for the 1992 Paralympics in Barcelona, where there were no proper facilities. The IPC insists that a

sport must be played in at least 18 countries before it can claim a place in the Paralympics and, although it is believed that people with disabilities play in virtually all the 35 countries affiliated to the World Bowls Board (WBB), there are few records available to substantiate the theory.

Dr David Peacock, the vice-chairman of the British Wheelchair Bowls Association, says that it is ironic that bowls should be left out of the programme for Sydney in the year 2000. "Playing conditions in Seoul in 1988 and Atlanta this year were awful," he said,

"but Australia is the biggest bowling country, and we were looking forward to playing on the best greens in the world. It is also ironic that bowls will be replaced by something called wheelchair rugby, a rough and tumble game for quadriplegics, that, by definition, can be played only by people in wheelchairs. Although everyone is glad that severely handicapped people are getting a chance to compete, their inclusion will rule out blind bowlers like Alan Lyne, and amputees like Neil Shaw, who won gold medals for Great Britain in Atlanta."

Jim Bithell, the secretary of the 600-strong English National Association of Visually Handicapped Bowlers, has expressed dismay that his members, who appeared in the Paralympics for the first time this year, will not have the opportunity in future. Bob Lowe, who was chairman of the IPC bowls committee until August, said that there is an appeal pending, but he is not optimistic about its outcome. "We have asked the WBB to back our appeal," Lowe said, "but they have little clout because bowls is not an Olympic sport."

Bob Tinker, the new chairman of the IPC lawn bowls committee, a wheelchair bowler from Adelaide, claims that Atlanta was full of disappointments. "We had to play on an AstroTurf pitch, which had been used as a warm-up area for the hockey players," he said. "Our bowls veered sharply left or right, and bounced in the air. If the swimmers had been made to compete in a duck pond, they would have sympathised."

The most depressing time of the Games, however, was when the IPC secretary general, Andre Raas, announced that, not only would we be excluded from the Sydney Paralympics, but the executive committee would not receive any correspondence from the lawn bowlers, let alone reconsider their decision.

"I have lived, worked, and played in the general community, and have never felt disadvantaged, but for the first time in my life, I felt as if I had been treated like a second-class citizen."

Tony Allcock, the world outdoor singles champion, was trounced 25-7 by Jeff Rabkin in the first of three international matches between England and Israel, at Kfar Hamaccabiah yesterday, but England emerged winners in the pairs, triples and fours to win the match 3-1 overall.

Brett Morley, David Cutler, John Bell and Andy Thompson, the world fours champions, won narrowly 22-21, Cutler and Thompson won the pairs 20-22, while Morley, Bell and Allcock raced to a 34-13 victory in the triples.



Ruddles County Riddles.

No. 12. Change for the Better

Peter, James and John had arranged to meet up with several other key members of their local village cricket team to watch highlights from an enthusiastic amateur video of their latest, greatest mid-season match.

Like any thoughtful hosts catering for grown-up tastes they decided to get in a basic stock of flavoured Ruddles County in convenient cans. They also agreed as friends do, to share the expense and each chipped in a tanner to the kitty. John volunteered to pop

round to the Off Licence on their behalf.

After he'd left laden with also the Manager of the Off Licence realised he'd overcharged him by £5. To rectify the situation immediately, he gave his new assistant 5 pound coins and instructed him to run after John and return the correct change.

The assistant who was on probation (in more senses than one) caught up with John, explained the situation but being a little economical

with the truth kept 2 pound coins for himself and returned 3 pound coins to John.

Unsuspecting John thanked him and returned £1 each to Peter and James, keeping £1 for himself. In effect this meant that the 3 friends had expended £9 each and the shifty assistant had nicked £2.

The strange thing is this £9 multiplied by 3 = £27.00 plus £2 that was misappropriated = £29.00.

What happened to the other £1?

As this is an unauthorised reprinting, the correct way to do the sum is to the sum is £25 divided by 3 = £8.33 + £2 returned = £27 returned + £2 taken without authority, then we're only 1p short of £29.

RADIO CHOICE

Legal jungle pathfinder

Law in Action. Radio 4, 8.50pm.

To find our way through the labyrinthine workings of the legal system, we lay listeners need to have a qualified guide. Otherwise, once lost, we give up the ghost. There is little fear of this happening with *Law in Action*, which returns tonight for its autumn season. Once again, Marcel Berlins is our thoroughly dependable pathfinder through the jungle. He is, perhaps, better known to readers of *The Times* as a reviewer of mystery fiction. Tonight, he analyses the work of those he calls the most powerful judges in the land — the Law Lords and the judges of the Court of Appeal about whom, it is safe to say, most of us know little or nothing. There is almost a men-only club. Only one of them is a woman.

William Walton. Radio 3, 7.30pm.

I will bet a pound to a penny that in this all-Walton concert by the BBC Symphony Orchestra, it is his "entertainment with words", *Facade*, that will give you the greatest pleasure. The witty and wistful Edith Sitwell poems, which Walton set to music, are read by Juliet Stevenson and Richard Stilgoe. Andrew Davis conducts. If this were television, I guarantee that we would see his eye-twinkling working overtime, but of course, Walton's music and Sitwell's poems have this effect on all conductors, musicians, and verse speakers who are lucky enough to perform it. Walton's Symphony No 2 and his *Sinfonia Concertante* complete the programme.

Peter Davalle

RADIO 1

6.30am Mark Radcliffe 9.00 Simon Mayo, includes Golden Hour 12.00 Lisa (Anson, includes Newbeat 2.00 Nicky Campbell 4.00 Mark Goodier, includes at 5.30-5.45 Newsbeat 7.00 Essential Selection, with Pete Tong 10.00 One in the Jungle 12.00 Radio 1 Rap Show, with Tim Westwood 3.00am Anne Nightingale 5.00 Charlie Jordan

RADIO 2

6.00am Martin Kahner 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 8.30 Ken Bruce 11.30 Vincent Hanna 1.30pm Debbie Throver 3.00 Ed Shaw 5.00 Chris Sims 7.00 Mid about Musicals: Paul Nicholas hosts the final of the quiz 7.30 Friday Night is Music Night, live from Fairfield, Croydon. Robin Boyle introduces the BBC Concert Orchestra, under Kenneth Alwyn 9.30 Listen to the Band 10.00 Shendani Morley 12.00am Charles Nova

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports, incl 5.45 Wake Up to Money 6.00 The Breakfast Programme incl at 6.55, 7.55 racing preview 8.35 The Magazine, with Diana Madill, incl 10.35 News from Europe 12.00 Midday with Mair, incl 12.35pm Moneycheck, with Philippa Lamb 2.00 Russia on Five, incl 3.45 Entertainment News 4.00 Nationwide, incl at 4.45 Entertainment News 7.00 News Extra, with David McNeil 7.35 Parkinson on Sport 8.30 Friday Sport, with Robin Bailey 10.00 Paper Talk, with Jay Rayner and Brian Atkinson 11.00 Night Extra 12.00am After Hours 2.05 Up All Night

TALK RADIO

8.00am Early Breakfast 7.00 Paul Ross 8.00 Scott Chisholm 12.00 Anna Rasmus 2.00pm Tommy Boyd 4.00 Drivetime, with Peter Dinklage 7.00 Motor Dealer's Sportszone 10.00 Mike Allen 1.00am Ian Collins

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air, Presented by Andrew McGregor, includes Handel (Suite in E, HWV430, The Harmonious Blacksmith), Prokofiev (Piano Concerto No 3), Martinu (Rococo), and at 8.45 Morning Collection, with Catriona Young, includes Elgar (Pomp and Circumstance), Stravinsky (Symphony of Fables), Scriabin (Poem of Ecstasy)

10.00 Musical Encounters, Presented by Chris Wines, includes W.F. Bach (Keyboard Concerto in F, F44), Mozart (Piano Concerto No 27 in B flat, K595), Arlt (The Windmill), and at 12.00 Composer of the Week: Francis, Violinist Tamarin Little talks about modern approaches to Francis's music. The programme includes Piano Quintet in F minor, 2nd mvt and Violin Sonata in A

1.00pm New Chamber Music from Manchester, live from Studio 7, introduced by Rodney Staddon, Dublin (Oboe Sonata); Poulenc (Oboe Sonata); Dutilleul (Les citations); Douglas Boy, oboe, Susan Tormes, piano, Maggie Cole, harpsichord, Enzo Serrit, double bass, Jeremy Cornes, percussion.

2.00 Pieces de Clavecin, Ramon's Pieces de clavecin on concertos performed by Robert Kohnen, harpsichord, Bernhard Kufken, lute, Sigewald Kufken, violin and Wieland Kufken, viola da gamba

3.00 Mining the Archive, Susan Sharpe uncovers memorable recordings by some well-loved British musicians, includes Elgar (Introduction and Allegro) by the Halle Orchestra under Sir John Barbirolli; Schubert (The Shepherd on the Rock) sung by Margaret Price, soprano and Haydn (String Quartet in G, Op 64 No 4) performed by the Aramuzo Quartet

5.00 Music Machine, Tommy Pearson investigates tuning in different cultures

8.15 In Tune includes Rossini (Overture, Il barbiere di Siviglia); Bach (Prelude and Fugue in A, '48' Bk 1)

7.30 William Walton: See Choice 9.25 Five Poems for Years: The Shadow of God, by Ken Smith recalls a Hungarian festival during Lent

8.45 Spanish Songbook, Stanislawski (Two Wolf Songs: Herr, was tragt der Boden her; Wunder tragt du, Wolf (in dem Schatten meiner Locken)

10.00 Hear and Now, Sarah Walker introduces the City of London Sinfonia, conductor Richard Hickox at last week's concert. Playing in the New Festival at London's Barbican Centre.

The concert begins with a new work selected earlier at a workshop organised by the Society for the Promotion of New Music and is followed by Diana Buller's Dandelion, a mandolinist's album includes John Tavener's The Hidden Face and Barry Guy's Concerto for Orchestra, Fallgatterer

12.00 Composer of the Week: Stravinsky

1.00am Through the Night, with Donald Macleod

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping (LW) 6.00 New Briefing 6.10 Farming Today 6.25 Prayer for the Day 6.30 Today 6.40 Speak after the Bleep 6.55 Weather

9.00 News 9.05 Desert Island Discs: The author Rumer Godden (P)

9.45 Feedback 10.00 News: At the Shoulder of History (SR)

10.00 An Act of Worship (LW) 10.15 On This Day (LW) 10.30 Woman's Hour

11.30 The Natural History Programme, Presented by Joanna Pinnock

12.00 News: You and Yours 12.25pm The Food Programme, Derek Cooper puts the food business through the grinder 12.55 Weather

1.00 The World at One 1.40 The Archers (P) 1.55 Shipping Forecast

2.00 News: Classic Serials: Gothic: The Mysteries of Udolpho, Dramatised by Catherine Czerkowska. A series of startling adventures takes young Emily St Aubert from her idyllic home in Gossington to the terrible Castle of Udolpho with Deborah Berke, Joan Meredith and Robert Glenister (12) (P)

3.00 News: The Afternoon Shift 4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope, Robin Maury gets a preview of the Victoria and Albert's new galleries, refurbished at a cost of two million pounds to house Raphael's Renaissance tapestry cartoons. Plus an examination of a new campaign that argues the arts should be made a higher priority in our schools

4.45 Short Story: The Devil in the Cupboard, by Micheline Wandor, Read by Lesley Jones

5.00 PM 5.00 Shipping 5.55 Weather

6.00 Six O'Clock News 6.30 Going Places 7.00 News 7.05 The Archers 7.20 Pick of the Week, with Richard Coles

8.05 Any Questions? With Virginia Bottomley MP, Professor Peter Hennessy, Sir Neil Cossons, Tony Benn, MP

8.50 Law in Action See Choice 9.15 Letter from America, by Alistair Cooke

9.30 Kaleidoscope Feature: Anthony Dowell. A review of some of the Royal Ballet Company's achievements (P)

9.55 Weather 10.00 The World Tonight, with Robin Lustig

10.45 Book at Bedtime: Fluke (SR)

11.00 Week Ending, The topical comedy sketch show, starring Sally Grace, Jon Glover, Sally Phillips and Kevin Eldon

11.25 Tea Junction, Patrick Harman and guests take a sociological look at the week's events

11.45 Hitting the Bullseye, Unit 1908 the game of darts was banned from most pubs. Martin Warnwright looks back to the seminal case in which Mr Foot Anakin of the Adelphi Pub, Leeds, took his darts to court and challenged the bad (P)

12.00 News 12.30am The Late Book: Primary Colours (P) 12.45 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE, RADIO 1, FM 97.6-99.8, RADIO 2, FM 88.0-90.2, RADIO 3, FM 90.2-92.4, RADIO 4, FM 92.4-94.6, LW 198, MW 720, RADIO 5 LIVE, MW 635, 605, WORLD SERVICE, MW 545, LW 198 (12.45-5.55am), CLASSIC FM, FM 100-102, VIRGIN RADIO, FM 105.6, MW 1197, 1215, TALK RADIO UK, MW 1053, 1089, Television Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNamara.



SIMON BARNES 44

Were the jockeys right to walk out on Haydock?

SPORT

FRIDAY OCTOBER 18 1996

GOLF 46
Woosnam driven off course by Montgomerie



Rusedski gives way to Davis Cup colleague pursuing first Tour title

Henman wins battle of Britons

FROM DAVID MILLER
IN OSTRAVA
CZECH REPUBLIC

TIM HENMAN, whose rise and rise is earning admiration way beyond Great Britain, took another stride yesterday towards a place among the world's top 20 tennis players. In his first meeting in an ATP Tour event with Greg Rusedski, his Davis Cup colleague, he won in straight sets, 7-6, 7-5, to reach the quarter-finals of the Czech indoor tournament.

This victory, in a replay of the British national championship, a tense occasion of domestic pride, was characterised by Henman's ability to handle calmly the critical moments at the climax of a set. This quality, evident in his performances at Wimbledon and Flushing Meadow this year, was again apparent when he took the first set tie-break 7-3 and then, against Rusedski's ferocious service, his first match point.

There had, however, been a controversial turning-point in Henman's favour in the second game of the first set. Serving at 1-0 down and 30-30, Henman chipped a backhand deep to Rusedski's backhand. The baseline judge called "out", thereby giving Rusedski break point, but the call was instantly overruled by Stefan Winkler, the umpire. Rusedski was to have no other break point in the match.

Without losing his temper, Rusedski made a prolonged protest, saying that the decision was "a disgrace" and indicating that the ball fell several inches long. After Henman held service for 1-1, Rusedski called for the supervisor, but the call stood.

"I had no doubt at all," Winkler said, "but I think the call was on Rusedski's mind for the rest of the match. He was looking for an overrule on a double-fault call in the tie-break, one that was far too close for me to give such a decision."

When winning his third ATP Tour title last week in Peking, Rusedski had served a record-breaking ace at 139.5mph and, earlier this month, lifted his ranking to No 53, compared with Henman's position at No 26, after his losing semi-final against Kafelnikov at Lyons. The pressure should, in



Rusedski, fresh from his success in Peking, lines up a backhand return during his straight-sets defeat by his fellow Briton in the Czech indoor tournament yesterday

theory, have been heavier upon Henman, but it was Rusedski who was visibly on edge throughout.

"The first set is always so important," Rusedski said, without acrimony. "To get so many calls doesn't help. That's the way it goes some days. Give credit to him for his performance. I think he has a good chance against [Wayne] Ferreira [of South Africa] in the quarter-finals, so we'll probably be seeing the third in

his series this year against Todd Martin."

Today, Martin, who exchanged defeats with Henman at Wimbledon and Flushing Meadow, meets David Prinosil, of Germany, and Henman, the No 7 seed, plays Ferreira, the No 2 seed, in the bottom half of the draw. In the top half, the scheduled semi-final should have been Goran Ivanisevic against Boris Becker, but Becker was yesterday forced to withdraw

with a repetition of his wrist injury at Wimbledon and Ivanisevic lost to Petr Korda, the Czech, 7-6, 6-2.

Becker's inclusion in the draw had generated a steep rise in interest here, a full house seeing his first round match, but fewer than half that were there to see Henman's victory — nonetheless more than watched the final here last year in a steel city that is darkly reminiscent of Sheffield and dominated by

the vast Vitkovice manufacturing complex.

So deadpan is Henman that he has the appearance of someone advancing towards a day's work across Waterloo Bridge in a bowler, wielding umbrella rather than tennis racket. For the first 11 games, as Rusedski's pounding service successively gave him the odd-game lead, Henman wore a slightly resigned air beneath a half-smile, as though his train had yet again arrived

late. Something beyond his control.

He neither served nor returned particularly well at first. Rusedski's power prevented the latter. "There were times," Henman said, "when I only got one touch of the ball on his service game." Rusedski hit 19 aces. Yet, at 6-5 down, Henman suddenly lifted his concentration to produce his sharpest game yet. Rusedski, attempting to rush the net behind his returns, was passed by one of those superb Henman cross-court backhands. Tie-break.

Another backhand pass gave Henman a break point: 1-0. A controlled low backhand volley at the net and a first service deep to Rusedski's backhand made it 3-0. Now, Rusedski twice double-faulted, on the second occasion shouting "disgusting" at the line judge, but more at everyone in general. The tension was eroding his concentration. Henman's gaze was unwavering.

Brian Teacher, who became Rusedski's coach earlier this year, reflected that his man needed to stay cool. "Greg's been the better player up to the tie-break," he said, as they changed ends.

This Rusedski did in the second set. Neither player flinched on service, apart from Rusedski being 15-40 on an unlucky net-cord bounce at 3-2 to Henman. Rusedski responded with two searing aces. Henman produced two of his own nine aces to lead 4-3 and three love games

brought them to 5-5. In spite of a heavy fall, when wrong-footed by Rusedski's mid-court volley, Henman led 6-5.

Here, Rusedski again faltered at a critical stage. A glorious running forehand down the line gave Henman deuce, Rusedski then put a backhand half-volley in the foot of the net and Henman's deep forehand to the baseline clinched it. Henman is the highest-ranked player who has yet to win a tournament, though he has had five semi-finals. The first win cannot be far off.

Gascoigne given another chance by Rangers

BY KEVIN MCCARRA

RANGERS will punish Paul Gascoigne, but not part with him. Despite his sending off against Ajax in a European Cup Champions' League match on Wednesday that exacerbated his side's troubles, Gascoigne's career at Ibrox is likely to survive this latest misdemeanour. The club still wants to keep him and rumours that he has asked for a move were dismissed.

"Gascoigne has not indicated at all that he wants a transfer," Walter Smith, the Rangers manager, said. Even so, any further delinquency is likely to see the player sold, since the club is also troubled by allegations that Gascoigne beat his wife, Sheryl, after an argument on Sunday night.

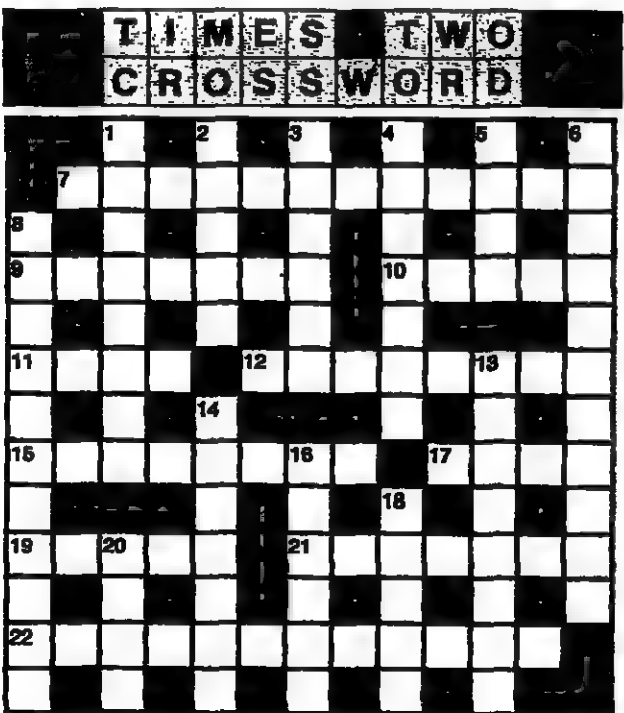
Smith said: "If the problems he has had off the field have led to a tension that means he is unable to handle pressure and gets himself sent off, then I will look at the situation, have a talk with him and see whether he can handle playing without over-reacting in the manner he did."

Smith admitted that his tolerance is approaching an end. "There has to be a limit to anyone's patience in terms of the number of times these things can happen," he said. "After Wednesday, there are bound to be questions as to whether he will ever be any different."

Given Gascoigne's wealth, a fine from the club would have little impact, but he is certain to miss the three remaining matches in the Champions' League this season. A one-game suspension is applied automatically and, given that Gascoigne was also dismissed against Borussia Dortmund, in the competition last year, Uefa, the governing body of European football, will increase the punishment.

The greatest chastisement may come from his own teammates. Rangers were only a goal down to Ajax when Gascoigne aimed his petulant kick at Winston Bogarde and at the interval there were heated recriminations in the dressing-room. Once again, Gascoigne must begin an attempt to restore his reputation both as a footballer and as a man.

Turbulent times, page 3
Poor men of Europe, page 48



No 916

ACROSS

- 7 Give full blast of attack (to) (5,3,4,2)
- 9 Get round, remove (obstacle) (7)
- 10 Female person (5)
- 11 Tender: sounds like fly high (4)
- 12 Sharp dagger (8)
- 15 Precise: a medicine (8)
- 17 Coral ridge (4)
- 19 William Webb —, rugby inventor (5)
- 21 Lover of Cressida (7)
- 22 Pig-gut dish (12)

DOWN

- 1 Deliberately wayward (8)
- 2 OT prophet: jinx (5)
- 3 Abhor (6)
- 4 Raised walkway for egg models (7)
- 5 Russian port; hairdo (4)
- 6 Haughty, reserved (5-6)
- 8 Conformity among parts: degree of firmness (1,1)
- 13 Study of the divine (8)
- 14 Hairy (7)
- 16 One after another (2,4)
- 18 Distinctive (artistic) theme (5)
- 20 Animal's den (4)

The solution to 915 will be published Wednesday, October 23

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Henman, his status at his country's top player reinforced, acknowledges the crowd

Barnes puts Liverpool in driving seat

FC Sion 1
Liverpool 2

FROM PETER BALL
IN SION
SWITZERLAND

ENGLISH football's week in Europe began with Newcastle United indulging in another comedy of errors, but it ended last night with renewed optimism as Liverpool followed Manchester United's European Cup success on Wednesday with a convincing defeat of FC Sion in the Cup Winners' Cup.

An early flutter, when the Swiss took the lead, was forgotten as Robbie Fowler, back from injury, and then John Barnes, with a header, of all things, assured them of victory in the first leg of this second-round tie. Indeed, but for a mesmerising performance from Lehmann in the

Sion goal, the win might have been a rout.

There was some early uncertainty in the Sion defence and Berger, whose strong running was to pose a constant threat, burst through. However, his shot was deflected just wide as Lehman, yet to get into his stride, dived nervously.

Shortly afterwards, when Luiz Milton, the Brazilian in the heart of the Swiss defence, gave it away again, Fowler, now recovered from the ankle injury that had kept him out of action for three Liverpool games and one international, was almost through. Perhaps he was rusty, for he turned into trouble and the chance escaped.

Liverpool were into their stride and there was little danger, it seemed, as Matteo intercepted Quentin's long ball. Matteo's attempt to turn it back to James, though, was

underhit. Bonvin pounced, rounded James and slid the ball home from an acute angle. It was a goal borne of sloppy defending.

Liverpool might have equalised almost immediately as Bjornebye, whose probing crosses provided Liverpool's biggest source of danger all evening, found McManaman. He turned his man, but Lehmann parried his effort from close range.

McManaman's next effort was punched away by the goalkeeper, but, after 23 minutes Liverpool gained the equaliser they deserved. Once again, Bjornebye was heavily involved as he fed the ball into Berger. The Czech's shot was half-stopped by Lehmann, but Fowler bundled it in to make sure and celebrated his return to the team. Lehmann protested fiercely that Fowler had fouled him in the process and was booked for his trouble.

The restart after the interval was delayed when the local band refused to leave the field until they had gone through their repertoire, but when play finally got underway, Bjornebye was having an increasing say in things and he was instrumental when Liverpool took the lead. After Berger had been tripped, the Norwegian's free kick was somehow turned away by Lehmann, but only at the expense of a corner. Bjornebye took it and Barnes rose to glance a header into the net, for his fourth goal of the season and second in Europe. Lehmann then kept the score down.

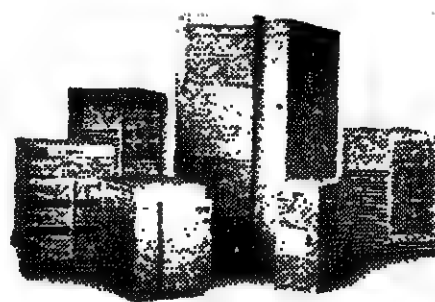
SION (25-21) S Lehmann — R Wicky, L Milton, Y Quaden — A Gaspard, P Bjornebye, P Verayevsky, J Lempert, S Zambor (sub, P Cruzat, Gmina) — V Lukic, C Bonini (sub, O Vico, 78)

LIVERPOOL (24-23-11) D James — J Szostek, D Milovan, P Bago — J McManaman, J Barnes, S Bjornebye — S McManaman, P Berger — R Fowler (sub, J Rodriguez, 67)

Referee: A J Lopez: Neco (Spain)

MORSE

Détente



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French unions hail strike by 1.5m in austerity protest

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

MORE than 1.5 million French public-sector workers mounted a 24-hour strike yesterday in protest at planned job cuts, record unemployment and government austerity measures in the run-up to economic and monetary union.

The strike hit transport, education, hospitals and government offices, as thousands of civil servants, rail, utility, health and postal workers stopped work and joined protest marches through Paris and other cities in a grim echo of the industrial unrest that crippled France last year.

The Government was quick to point out, however, that support for the strike was less in most sectors than on a similar day of action a year ago.

About a third of France's five million public-sector employees stopped work yesterday, compared with 57 per cent last October, when a one-day strike kicked off a winter of discontent.

Unions leaders had predicted mass disruption yesterday, but the protest was a grey and patchy affair compared with 1995's vivid explosion of industrial unrest. Protesters staged demonstrations in Marseilles, Toulouse, Bordeaux, Dijon

and Paris, where union organisers claimed 100,000 took to the streets. Police put the figure at 25,000.

Education workers will bear the brunt of the Government's planned job cuts and half the nation's teachers refused to turn up for work, forcing many schools to close.

Metro and bus services in Paris were only slightly affected, however, and while many commuters chose to drive to work the resulting traffic jams were a far cry from the epic snarl-ups of last October.

Train services were cut by two-thirds and airports were operating just 15 per cent of their scheduled flights because of air traffic controllers joining the strike. The Eurostar rail service between Paris and London was unaffected.

A poll published in *Le Parisien* showed that 64 per cent of voters sympathised with the strikers, while almost 40 per cent favoured a renegotiation of the Maastricht treaty.

Unions hailed the day of action as a success and a potent warning to the Government, but strike leaders were divided over whether to press for further stoppages.

"There is growing anger on the ground which will find

increasing expression because people have had enough," said Louis Vianney, head of the Communist-led CGT union.

But Nicole Notat, the moderate leader of the giant CFDT union, who did not support the 1995 strikes, said that the protest lacked clear aims and was turning into a general expression of discontent. She said she would wait to see the results of negotiation before backing more strikes.

Union disunity was clearly evident as strikers marched through Paris beneath, drizzling skies. CGT members jeered and shouted abuse at Mme Notat, who is in favour of the single currency, and scuffles broke out between hecklers and her supporters.

Mme Notat's remark on the lack of clear aims among marchers was reinforced by the wide array of grievances: African immigrants demanded residence permits, workers opposed privatisation and journalists defended their tax perks.

Individual protests planned in coming weeks will highlight such diverse issues as pension rights and a higher price for diesel fuel which has angered French lorry drivers.

Public sector unions are deeply opposed to plans to

eliminate about 6,000 Civil Service jobs as part of the wider drive by Alain Juppé, the Prime Minister, to reduce spending and cut the deficit in time for monetary union.

But unlike last year — when a proposal to reform pensions

combined in an incendiary mixture with government efforts to overhaul the indebted state rail system — there are no such emotive issues around which the unions can rally support. Private sector workers have so far shown

little inclination to strike. In two moves carefully timed to try to defuse the unrest, the Government has agreed to lift a freeze on civil servants' pay and Dominique Perben, the Public Service Minister, announced this week that he

would begin salary negotiations before the end of the year. Prolonged strikes now would jeopardise France's chances of joining a single currency on time.

Leading article, page 23



A lone cyclist passes strike-bound TGV high-speed trains at the Gare de Lyon depot in Paris during yesterday's stoppage. Rail services were reduced by two-thirds but the capital's transport links were relatively unaffected.

Kohl bid to assure Italians on euro

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

HELMUT KOHL, the German Chancellor, discussed the role of Italy in economic and monetary union with Romano Prodi, the Italian Prime Minister, yesterday as part of a concerted campaign by Bonn to build bridges with Mediterranean members of the European Union.

Signor Prodi and, earlier in the week, José María Aznar, the Spanish Prime Minister, made lightning visits to Bonn. Neither seem to have wrung concessions from Herr Kohl. Bonn still cannot see how it can sell the euro currency to its own people if the entry criteria for economic and monetary union (EMU) have to be bent and stretched to let in Spain and Italy as part of the first wave.

Officially, the German position is that Spain and Italy can still qualify and that their applications will be considered with due seriousness. Privately, the talk is of how to allow a delayed entry into EMU more palatable for Italy.

Spain has made clear that it does not want its entry linked to Italy's, reflecting the confidence in Madrid that it is more likely to arrive at the door on time. German economic experts share that view but, like the politicians, are unwilling to express it publicly.

The rivalry of the Spanish and Italians has also complicated the personal diplomacy of Herr Kohl. After the departure of his main southern ally, Felipe Gonzalez, the former Socialist Prime Minister of Spain, Herr Kohl had high hopes of Signor Prodi's centre-left Government. Most German and Spanish commentators seem to agree there is no personal chemistry between Herr Kohl and Señor Aznar. But Signor Prodi's rule has come under scrutiny from the Germans, who do not like the look of his economic figures, and confusion within his Olive Tree coalition over Europe.

At dinner last night, the two leaders were expected to discuss the return of Italy to the European monetary system. But on the larger issue, Herr Kohl for now can offer only psychological support to Italy.



Prodi: wants to join first wave of euro

Swiss deny stalling on Jews' funds

FROM PETER CAPELLA IN GENEVA

CRACKS are appearing in Switzerland's banking establishment for the first time in 50 years, as it reacts to repeated allegations that it prevented relatives of Holocaust victims retrieving funds deposited in Switzerland.

The bankers' association said yesterday that more time was needed for a thorough investigation. It was reacting to the latest onslaught by Alfonso D'Amato, chairman of the US Senate banking committee, who earlier accused Switzerland of "blatantly benefiting from the Holocaust" and of stalling justice.

Despite the growing pressure, several bankers have said that they are determined to protect Swiss banking secrecy. Speaking on condition of anonymity to *Journal de Genève*, a senior banker yesterday accused the Swiss of not doing enough to defend the banking establishment.

But Silvia Mattie, a spokeswoman for the bankers' association, acknowledged that the banks had shown a lack of sensitivity. "I think that one should consider this the opinion of one person," she added. Mrs Mattie said there was full support for the official investigations now under way.

The Government is setting up a commission of inquiry into all Switzerland's financial dealings with the Nazis. It is to start work next year.

Another independent panel, set up by the bankers' association and Jewish groups, is to hold its first meeting today, while the banking ombudsman is to announce next month the first results of requests by relatives to trace dormant accounts.

Basques open rift in Aznar coalition

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN MADRID

AN UGLY rift opened yesterday between the conservative Government in Madrid and its Basque nationalist partners after José Antonio Ardanza, the Basque premier, declared that "the State" — nationalist code for "Spain" — was "losing the meagre legitimacy it has in the Basque country".

Senior Ardanza's remarks, accompanied by a threat to vote against the Government's budget proposals in Parliament, came after a bitter disagreement between Madrid and the Basque nationalists over the policy of scattering Euzkadi prisoners to jails across Spain.

The rift began two weeks ago, after the Basque regional parliament passed a resolution calling for the relocation of "all prisoners of Basque citizenship" to jails in their own region. Adopted with the support of Herri Batasuna, the political wing of Euzkadi, the resolution also called for "Spanish penal institutions to respect the basic human rights of Basque prisoners".

The Government, however, has rejected the call for the relocation, denouncing their Basque nationalist partners for "making common cause with terrorists".

If the dispute is not resolved quickly, the Basque nationalists could conceivably withdraw their support in Parliament from José María Aznar's minority Government, provoking a crisis only five months after taking office. Political observers have interpreted Señor Ardanza's remarks on "legitimacy" as an ultimatum to Señor Aznar.

The warning by the Basque premier came on the day that José Antonio Ortega Lara, a prison officer, completed nine months as an Euzkadi hostage. Señor Ortega, whose plight has become a cause célèbre in Spain, was kidnapped in January. The Basque Nationalist Party has urged the Government to negotiate with Euzkadi for his release.

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Taleban claims pact as wily warlord plays double game

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN KABUL

TANKS and anti-aircraft guns flying the flag of the northern fiefdom ruled by General Abdul Rashid Dostum, the Uzbek warlord, rumbled into positions 40 miles north of Kabul yesterday — a two-hour dash down the Salang highway to the Afghan capital. But the shattered city may yet be spared a bombardment.

The military and political turmoil in Afghanistan was thrown into chaos by changing fortunes on the battlefield and talk of a pact between two powerful enemies. It is a very Afghan trait for apparently irreconcilable foes to reconcile in this case. General Dostum and the Pashtun-dominated Taleban Islamic army, which controls Kabul and three-quarters of the country, are exploring compromises.

General Dostum is playing a confusing game. His aides in the northern city of Mazar-i-Sharif said he had agreed to the establishment of a commission with Taleban to discuss the possible formation of a broad-based government in Kabul. Taleban heralded it as a breakthrough and Shirmohammad Stanekzai, its Deputy

Foreign Minister, urged the United Nations to become immediately involved.

He may be exaggerating the significance of the supposed deal, but there is talk among General Dostum's aides of striking peace with Taleban, while farther south his tanks give the appearance of preparing for imminent war. His tanks and guns have moved into the town of Jabul Saraj, which straddles the Salang highway linking northern and southern Afghanistan. A joint assault by the forces of General Dostum and those of General Ahmed Shah Masood, the defence chief of the ousted Government, would almost certainly overrun Kabul.

There is another strand to this knot. General Dostum is also talking to Burhanuddin Rabbani, the former President of the ousted Government, who is sheltering in northern Afghanistan after taking flight on September 27 from the invading Taleban forces. Mr Rabbani is doubtless urging a Dostum-Masood invasion on Kabul to restore him to power.

That would not be welcomed internationally. Mr

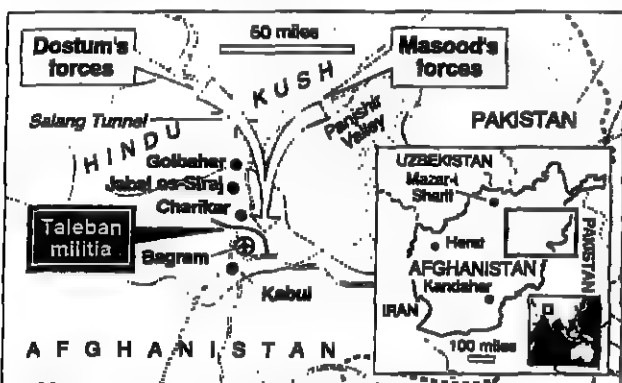
Rabbani flouted all the many pledges he gave to the UN — to give up power voluntarily to a caretaker administration that would subsequently pick a popular government through a general election or tribal procedures. He argued, with some justification, that there was no one to whom he could hand over power.

General Dostum, who quit the Rabbani Government in 1994 after a row, has no intention of allowing the destruction of General Masood's Tajik army, which he needs as a buffer against Taleban's ambitions. Kabul radio calls the Tajik leader a spent force, but this is an over-statement even if he is incapable of capturing Kabul alone.

Until a few weeks ago General Dostum was also a target of Taleban's invective because he had been a commander in the Communist Government installed by the former Soviet Union, but he has now metamorphosed, in Kabul radio's pronouncements, into a friend. The warlord is doubtless positioning his tanks close to Kabul to intimidate Taleban into a deal to his liking.

Last week he had reached a pact with General Masood, declaring that any attack on either of them would be treated as an attack on both. Now he is receiving peace overtures from General Masood's sworn enemy. He is a skillful opportunist who is playing Taleban and General Masood against each other to safeguard his mini-state, which has close ties with the former Soviet republic of Uzbekistan.

Bernard Levin, page 22



Rescue workers look for signs of life among the victims lined up beside the pitch at the national stadium in Guatemala City. A stampede before a World Cup qualifying match left at least 83 dead and 180 wounded

83 die in Guatemala football crush

FROM DAVID ADAMS IN MIAMI

AT LEAST 83 people were trampled to death or suffocated and a further 180 injured on Wednesday evening during a crowd surge at a World Cup qualifying match in Guatemala City.

It was the worst football stampede since the Hillsborough stadium disaster in April 1989 when 96 people were killed and at least 200 injured.

It is not clear what caused the crush, which occurred about an hour before the

match between Guatemala and Costa Rica. The crowd of more than 45,000 people may have packed the stands beyond capacity. Some reports put the blame on ticket forgeries and witnesses said the stadium was already overcrowded more than an hour before the game was due to start.

News of the tragedy revived bitter memories in Liverpool, where most of the Hillsborough victims came from. Coun-

cillor Jack Spriggs, who chairs the city council's working party on the Hillsborough disaster, said: "In Britain, fences in major stadiums no longer exist to allow for the remote possibility of something like Hillsborough happening again... I know this happened in Latin America, but they are all part of FIFA [world football's governing body] and I think it is a disgrace that this should be allowed to happen."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Kim sacks Seoul Defence Minister

Seoul: President Kim Young Sam of South Korea yesterday sacked Lee Yang Ho, the Defence Minister, after fierce criticism of the military for failing to intercept an intruding North Korean submarine.

This aims to renew the military atmosphere and to reinforce national defence by tightening military discipline, Yoon Yoo Joon, a presidential spokesman, said.

South Koreans were shocked by the ease with which the submarine penetrated South Korean coastal defences. John Deutch, the Director of the CIA, arrived in Seoul yesterday for meetings with President Kim. (Reuters)

Family is held over abduction

Frankfurt: A couple and their son will be charged with kidnapping a millionaire, who employed the wife and is still missing, officials said.

About 500 police meanwhile searched a nature park north of here for Jakob Fismann, who was abducted on October 1. Herr Fismann called his family the following day to arrange a ransom and told them he was being held in a cellar. Police recovered the DM4 million (£1.65 million) ransom on Wednesday. (AP)

Takeoff scare

Canberra: An air force plane carrying John Howard, the Australian Prime Minister, was forced to land soon after takeoff for Hobart, when the Falcon jet's nose was damaged by lightning. (AP)

Delhi rules

Delhi: The Indian Government ordered that federal rule be reimposed over the northern state of Uttar Pradesh for six months after elections to the state assembly ended in political deadlock. (AFP)

Third murder

Addis Ababa: A French researcher has been shot dead in Dire Dawa, eastern Ethiopia. Two other foreigners — from Germany and The Netherlands — have been murdered in the city this year. (AFP)

Escaper guilty

Brussels: Basri Bajrami, 41, a member of the 1980s Haemers Gang known for jail escapes, was found guilty of armed robbery and kidnapping Paul Vanden Boeynants, a former Prime Minister. (Reuters)

Killers jailed

Bombay: An Indian court convicted 11 Muslims of murder and sentenced them to life imprisonment for burning six Hindus to death during religious riots that erupted in Bombay three years ago. (AP)

Star turnout

Ho Chi Minh City: Sting performed to 4,000 fans in the Vietnamese city, becoming the biggest Western rock star to play in the Communist state after officials had pored over his lyrics for months. (AFP)

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Japanese voters plan away day

FROM ROBERT WHYMAN IN TOKYO

THE Japanese go to the polls on Sunday in a general election that is likely to strengthen the Liberal Democrats' grip on the lower house. The Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) of Ryutaro Hashimoto, the Prime Minister, is far ahead in polls and may be heading for an outright majority because voters see no practical alternative. Many are reluctant to make part.

Observers believe that such an outcome may reflect the feeling that if the pro-business party which ran Japan for nearly 40 years is unable to revive the lacklustre economy, no party can.

About 98 million Japanese are entitled to cast ballots but surveys point to a record low turnout on Sunday, with many families intending to head for the mountains or go shopping rather than vote. Two-thirds of voters expect nothing to change after the election and, despite campaign promises, few expect any reduction in the powers of overbearing civil servants.

An issue of more immediate concern is the national sales tax, which is due to rise in

April. Mr Hashimoto is known to be worried that his commitment to raise the tax from 3 to 5 per cent will cost his party support. The Shinshinto, the main opposition force, is wooing voters by promising to hold the tax at its present level. This is, however, the only substantive difference between the two leading players in the election.

A stark sense of disillusionment explains voters' reluctance to take part on Sunday. At the last election in 1993, they showed their dissatisfaction with corrupt government by ousting the LDP after it had monopolised power for 38 years. The country seemed on the brink of dramatic and salutary change, but only a year later the LDP was heading a coalition administration after tempting the Socialists, then the main opposition force, to form an alliance.

Since then the once-proud Socialist Party has repeatedly compromised its principles and lost all credibility. It has changed its name to the Social Democratic Party and now appears to be heading for extinction in the polls.

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Beleaguered Kurds look to Saddam to fight off rivals

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

FEARS grew last night of another Iraqi thrust into the Kurdish "safe area" of northern Iraq when Massoud Barzani, the leader of a Kurdish faction under growing military pressure from a rival group, said he may ask for Baghdad's help again.

The United States last month responded with punitive cruise missile strikes against Iraq when President Saddam Hussein's forces helped Mr Barzani's Kurdistan Democratic Party to seize the key city of Arbil from the rival Patriotic Union of Kurdistan.

"If the Kurdish people are under hard pressure from the PUK, we will ask for help from Iraq," Mr Barzani told a press conference at his residence near the northern town of Salahuddin.

According to the PUK, that help was already on the way. It claimed Iraq's elite Republican Guards were moving towards Arbil from Baghdad to help the KDP defend the city and boost Iraqi tanks and artillery already positioned on its outskirts. There was no immediate confirmation of any Iraqi troop movements.

Mr Barzani repeated accusations that Iran had helped the PUK recapture much of northern Iraq from his forces



Saddam: his tanks aided the capture of Arbil

this week. "If Iran has the right to support the PUK, why shouldn't we have the right to demand support from Iraq?", he asked.

Allegations of Iranian involvement in last month's fighting enabled Saddam to justify his intervention on the ground that he was defending Iraqi territory. At the time, Mr Barzani said he had only turned to Saddam for help after Washington had ignored several desperate pleas for support.

Washington, wary of being drawn into the Iraqi turmoil so close to presidential elections, has so far played down reports of Iranian and Iraqi

involvement in the latest fighting. But fears that either could extend their influence in northern Iraq has prompted America to mediate between the Kurds.

Robert Pelletreau, Assistant Secretary of State, was due to travel to the region this weekend to meet Mr Barzani and the PUK leader, Jalal Talabani. Mr Barzani said yesterday that he was not willing to hold direct talks with Mr Talabani.

The PUK recaptured its main stronghold of Sulaimaniya near the Iranian border last Sunday and, apart from Arbil, has since retaken most of the territory it lost in September. Its forces have advanced to within 20 miles of Arbil, but Mr Talabani has said they would not try to retake the city because it was ringed by Iraqi tanks.

Talabani could still try to retake Arbil to strengthen his bargaining position ahead of any American-sponsored ceasefire talks, said a Western diplomat in Jordan.

He also supported the theory that the PUK had received military support from Iran. "How else do you explain Talabani's remarkable comeback? All he had with him when he fled Sulaimaniya last month was his pyjamas."



Dr John Wamsley, an Australian conservationist who favours the eradication of domestic cats and aims to introduce them to the menu at his wildlife sanctuaries

Australians call for cats on menu to save wildlife

BY ROGER MAYNARD IN SYDNEY AND NIGEL HAWKES

AUSTRALIANS have declared war on the millions of marauding moggies whose reign of terror is posing a serious threat to the country's indigenous wildlife.

Since cats started arriving on British convict ships about 200 years ago, Australia's feline population has grown to 20 million. Now the Government is facing calls for the extermination of 18 million feral and two million domestic felines which animal conservationists claim are wiping out whole species.

Richard Evans, an MP, told parliament in Canberra yesterday that the cat was the most destructive of non-native species. "I am calling for the total eradication of cats in Australia," he declared.

Mr Evans suggested a programme to neuter all domestic cats over a ten-year period to ensure their gradual elimination and proposed limiting ownership to two pets per person. "The difference between the moggie next door and the feral cat is only one meal and a hungry moggie can and does kill native animals," he said.

His call won immediate support from John Wamsley, a conservationist who believes cats have wiped out 23 native Australian species.

More than half the world's endangered animals are Australian and we have lost more

species in the past 200 years than the rest of the world combined," Dr Wamsley said.

The conservationist, who runs six animal sanctuaries, wants to give the cat culinary appeal. "I hope to put them on the menu in my restaurants soon. They are a bit strong tasting but extremely good tucker," he said.

Australia has proved a happy hunting ground for many introduced species. Rabbits, cats and cane toads have all become pests after being brought to the country by man, either deliberately or by accident.

The usual explanation for their success is that the "advanced" mammals from Europe have proved superior to the primitive marsupials which make up Australia's native fauna. But that begs several questions.

For a start, mammals as well as marsupials have suffered. According to Dr Tim Flannery, head of mammals at the Australian Museum in Sydney, the greatest danger is to mammals that are about the size of a domestic cat, which inhabit the drier regions of the country.

If foxes, cats and domestic dogs were responsible, he argues, it is hard to see why mammals of this size range are so vulnerable.

Leading article, page 23

Defiant Hebron settlers draw up plans for militia

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

AS INTENSE Israeli-Palestinian negotiations over an Israeli troop pullout from Hebron continued yesterday, leaders of the 450 Jewish settlers who will remain in the West Bank city unveiled plans for setting up their own "defence force".

The formation of a new militia among extremist Jews who believe that they are fulfilling God's will by living near the Tomb of the Patriarchs has increased the chances of violence if the pullout takes place, as widely expected, within the next few weeks.

"We are organising our own defence system to make sure that what happened at Joseph's Tomb [the Jewish holy site near Nablus which Palestinians attacked with guns last month] does not happen to us," Noam Arnon, spokesman for the settlers, said.

He said they were not satisfied with plans drawn up by the Israeli Army for their defence and had decided to provide their own security.

The move reflected a growing conviction among Jews in Hebron and the nearby settlement of Kiryat Arba that some form of Israeli army redeployment would soon be agreed by Benjamin Netanyahu, the right-wing Prime Minister who faces international pressure to implement the pullout clause in the Israeli-Palestinian peace accord.

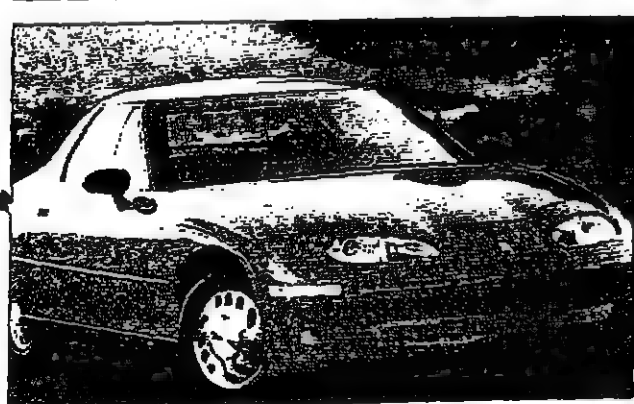
Yesterday the settlers ran

emotive advertisements in two of the main Hebrew papers appealing to Mr Netanyahu, his Cabinet, and Knesset deputies, before they adopt what the text described as "The Fateful Decision".

The settlers' threat came in response to Israeli government reports that — despite murmurings of pessimism from Palestinian negotiators at the Red Sea resort of Taba — a "package deal" enabling an Israeli pullout from about 80 per cent of Hebron was close to completion.

In Hebron yesterday, tension soared as Jews began fencing off an Arab-owned hilltop near Kiryat Arba. Israeli police later moved in and removed the barbed wire. "This is our homeland which we inherited from father to son. We have certificates to prove this land belongs to us," Ali Jaber, 32, said.

Book scrapped: Doron Neuberger, the first husband of Sarah Netanyahu, has dropped plans to write a kiss-and-tell book about his marriage. Israel radio said he announced the decision after being told he could not stay in Kibbutz Gaash if he wrote about his seven years of marriage to Mrs Netanyahu, now the Prime Minister's wife. Mr Netanyahu's aides had met several times with Mr Neuberger, 37, in unsuccessful appeals to drop the book. (AP)



The battery-powered EV1 which will combat smog

Silent star takes to the streets of LA

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

THE thrill of breaking the speed limit in the world's first mass-produced electric car was muted only by the sight of its battery gauge heading towards "recharge".

Swift, silent and cleaner than a milk-float, the pioneering EV1 has been let loose for the first time on the smog-filled streets of this vast city. The chief drawback of the vehicle intended to tackle pollution is that it needs recharging every 90 miles.

At a lease price of \$480 (£300) a month, the EV1, designed by General Motors, will be available to the public in December. In 2003 a Californian law will come into

effect, requiring 10 per cent of all new cars sold to be "emission-free". Easing into the cockpit on preview day, I felt as though I were reliving scenes from Woody Allen's film *Sleeper*. The door and ignition keys were replaced by numeric codes. An engineer offered a final top-up from a portable recharger. With barely a hum from under the bonnet this test driver was then released into LA's midday crush, turning heads at every traffic light.

The designers were anxious not to put off buyers with poor performance so, despite being weighed down by more than a tonne of batteries, the EV1 manages 0 to 60mph in less than nine seconds and has a top speed of 80mph.



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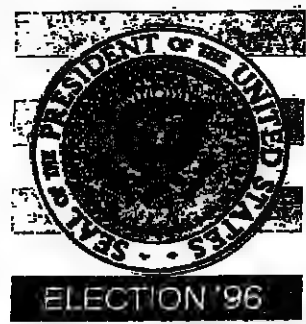
Final debate leaves Clinton weighing scale of his victory

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT CLINTON and Bob Dole yesterday returned to the campaign trail after their final debate with just two questions left unanswered. How big will Mr Clinton's victory be on November 5, and will his coat-tails be long enough for the Democrats to regain control of Congress?

Wednesday night's encounter in San Diego was Mr Dole's last hope of disrupting the President's cruise towards re-election. The 73-year-old Republican repeatedly assailed Mr Clinton's ethics and integrity, but he refused to respond and his image was barely dulled.

Three instant opinion polls showed that Mr Clinton "won" the debate by margins of 28, 29 and 30 percentage points. A remarkable 97 per cent said they had heard nothing to change the way they would vote and experts agreed that only a political miracle could save Mr Dole. Even Republican strategists



admitted that some of their party's congressional candidates may abandon Mr Dole by urging voters to re-elect them to keep Mr Clinton in check.

Mr Dole betrayed his desperation by suggesting one more debate before polling day, an idea swiftly rejected by the White House. Mr Clinton betrayed his confidence by urging all Americans to vote.

While Mr Dole seems to be gambling his entire campaign on winning California, the

President plans to spend the last 19 days rampaging through traditionally Republican states that could switch allegiance this year.

Mr Dole, so genteel during the first presidential debate on October 3, became caustic in the final debate. He claimed that Americans had lost faith in their Government because "they see scandals on an almost daily basis" in the Clinton White House. He accused the President of violating public trust and breaking promises. He raised, elliptically, the Whitewater and "Filegate" scandals and new allegations that Indonesian tycoons illegally funnelled huge contributions to the Democrats in return for access to the Oval Office.

Mr Clinton replied: "We are not well served when we attack each other in a kind of *ad hominem* way. We need to be disagreeing on ideas honestly and talking about the future."



President Clinton listens as Bob Dole sets out his ideas in the last election debate at the University of San Diego. Three polls presented Mr Clinton as the winner

Media conspire in magic rites of the spin doctors

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX IN SAN DIEGO

AS THE closing rhetoric of the television debate filled the television screens the spin doctors descended.

More than 50 "special advisers" and "consultants" to the Dole and Clinton campaigns poured into the hall where 200 journalists and television crews were waiting to put the best gloss on the 90 minutes of claims and ripostes. "Bob Dole won tonight," said Pete Domenici, senator for New Mexico. "He was aggressive, but in a dignified way," added Ken Khachigian, the Dole campaign's adviser in California.

Four feet away, George Stephanopoulos, senior adviser to Mr Clinton, maintained that "Bob Dole failed. He tried attacking, he looked around the audience and saw it wasn't working, and to his credit he went back to the issues."

"Spinning" is now so central a part of American politics, a pact between media and campaign managers, that the Clinton camp were ironically handing out toy spinning tops decorated with their logo.

In return, the television crews unashamedly impose the rules of their trade. One bellowed across the hall to Mike McCurry, the President's well-known head spokesman, "Mike, Mike, you're sweating, it's running into your collar" — waiting until he brushed away the trickle before filming his comments.

On the packed university concourse where the debate took place, on a ridge above San Diego and the Pacific Ocean, each spin doctor was identified by a sign held high above the crowd by campaign staff. Republicans had neat dark-blue placards with white writing, while the Democrats brandished three-sided multi-coloured pillars. After ten minutes, cardboard advertisements bobbed above the crowd, clashing with the tele-

vision booms like a medieval jousting match.

Both teams made much of the fact that the questions came from "ordinary Americans", San Diego citizens hand-picked by Gallup. Casually dressed, many in denim, with esoteric pendants around their necks, audience members could have been auditioning for a southern Californian soap opera.

The Clinton camp claimed that Mr Dole's long-awaited attack on the President's ethics had not worked. But they seemed subdued: Mr Dole had been more vigorous than expected. "It would have been better if we'd had more time

The audience of 'ordinary citizens' could have been auditioning for a southern Californian soap opera

on foreign policy," said Mr McCurry.

The Dole team boasted that their candidate won on Californian issues. He opposed defence cuts, which have hit the state hard, and supported plans to curb affirmative action for minorities and benefits for illegal immigrant families which have much support in California.

But his campaign managers were coy on the crucial question of whether Mr Dole will gamble his dwindling campaign cash on California, which has a fifth of the votes needed to win.

It will be clear within days whether he has bought more television airtime. Whatever the spin doctors say, that is the only clear sign that he means business in the Golden State.

Jakarta sees donation as a business ploy

Jakarta: Indonesians regard political contributions to President Clinton's campaign as a legitimate business practice, despite Republican claims that the donations were aimed at influencing American policy on East Timor (A Special Correspondent writes).

Neither do they regard the campaign contributions by James Riady, an Indonesian tycoon, as an attempt to influence the stalled sale of nine F16 fighters to Jakarta.

The donations of £274,000 occurred when Mr Clinton was Governor of Arkansas and Mr Riady lived and

worked in the state. A dean at the University of Indonesia said: "The way I see it, Mr Riady is banking on Clinton's victory to help his business."

Mr Riady, 39, first met Mr Clinton when he did an internship with the Irving Trust and Investment Bank in Little Rock, Arkansas, during the late 1970s. The President was then Attorney-General of the state. Their friendship was revived several years later when the Indonesian banker returned to Little Rock to help to run the Northern Bank and Trust. By then Mr Clinton had become Arkansas Governor.

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Exit from Kremlin frees general to play the wounded hero and exploit rising voter anger

'He has made a series of mistakes' Dismissed Lebed left to await his hour of destiny

THE televised address by President Yeltsin in which he sacked his National Security Adviser, General Aleksandr Lebed.

Esteemed Russians: Today I would like to say a few words on the situation with General Lebed. Unfortunately, the situation is not great.

Some time ago he offered to resign, but I told him that he must learn to work together with all state organisations and leaders. It is necessary to learn to do that and then it will be easier for you to solve problems.

This way, not a single

THE dismissal yesterday of General Aleksandr Lebed as Russia's security chief may have removed him from the levers of power inside the Kremlin, but it has not necessarily damaged his chances of ruling Russia one day.



Being sacked by Mr Yeltsin may actually be the best move of General Lebed's career, writes Richard Beeston from Moscow

As the former paratrooper last night contemplated his stormy four months as National Security Adviser and his humiliating sacking live on television, he can take some comfort from recent Russian history.

Before President Yeltsin came to power in 1991 he was also cast by Mikhail Gorbachev, the then Soviet leader, into the political wilderness but found that his isolation made him more popular than ever in the eyes of the Russian people.

As a candidate fighting in the presidential election while the Russian Federation was still part of the Soviet Union, Mr Yeltsin beat off the other hopefuls precisely because of his image among voters as an underdog, persecuted by the authorities.

General Lebed leaves his job the most popular and trusted politician in the country, who, during his brief period in government, succeeded in negotiating the only

enduring peace deal in the 20-month conflict in Chechnya. In a prophetic commentary yesterday, the newspaper *Kommersant* predicted that being sacked could be the best move of General Lebed's career. "Almost all the Kremlin and White House (parliamentary) politicians will stand to gain if Lebed is removed," the paper said. "But Lebed also will profit - he will continue scoring points by posing as a 'truth-lover' persecuted by the corrupt and cowardly."

Now outside the restraints of office, General Lebed will be free to retaliate against his numerous enemies and is likely to become a conduit for the rising anger in Russia. Voters feel cheated by July's presidential elections, since it now transpires that President Yeltsin had suffered a third heart attack and was unfit for office when he was re-elected. In addition, there is a growing sense that the country desper-

ately needs a leader as government wages subsidies and pensions go unpaid while politicians in Moscow seem consumed with power struggles and infighting.

If General Lebed can harness the discontent expressed recently by the military, miners, scientists and other sectors of Russian society, he could build himself up to become an unbeatable force.

Much of what happens next will depend on President Yeltsin's state of health. The Russian leader, who is still resting at a sanatorium outside Moscow, is due to have open-heart surgery in the middle of next month.

If he dies or is incapacitated during or after surgery, it would necessitate fresh elections, which the latest polls suggest General Lebed would win easily.

Another key indicator to the fate of the gruff Afghan war veteran will be the political alliances he makes. If he can attract serious political players, and more importantly financiers to bankroll his bid for power, he could be unbeatable.

However, politics moves quickly in Russia and if President Yeltsin remains in office for his full four-year term, there is a good chance that General Lebed will join the long list of other political hopefuls who tried, but failed, to oust Mr Yeltsin from power. He himself walked into the Kremlin job after the failed coup of August 1991 against Mr Gorbachev. General Lebed needs a similar crisis to propel him.

Dominic Lieven, page 22
Leading article, page 23



Tussle for power: General Lebed arm-wrestles while commanding the 14th Army in Moldova in 1992

Question-mark remains over peace deal with rebels

By MICHAEL BINYON
DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

THE departure of General Aleksandr Lebed from office throws into disarray plans for settling two of the most pressing problems for the Yeltsin Government: the war in Chechnya and the reform of the bankrupt armed forces.

General Lebed brought back what he thought was a triumphant settlement of the ruinous Chechen war. However, virtually all the political forces in Moscow accused him of surrendering Russian interests, legitimising the Chechen rebellion and leaving open the final political framework for Chechnya.

General Lebed has challenged his opponents to find a better solution, and has appealed over the heads of his rivals to Russian mothers and wives to support what he said was the only realistic way of stopping the fighting and halting the huge loss of Russian lives.

By dismissing him, however, Mr Yeltsin now calls into question not only the deal he negotiated but Moscow's willingness to negotiate with the Chechen separatists at all. The immediate fear in Grozny, the Chechen capital, will be that Mr Yeltsin will authorise a return to hardline tactics with a fresh assault. This would be popular among many Russian politicians, who never ac-

cepted any deal that did not punish the insurgents, and who saw General Lebed's proposals as a dangerous precedent for other turbulent ethnic groups trying to throw off Moscow's rule. However, the public overwhelmingly backed General Lebed, and is sick of a war that most people believe is militarily unwinnable.

His dismissal also underlines the difficulty of carrying out vital military reforms. The Russian Army is all but bankrupt, and thousands of conscripts and soldiers have not been paid for months. The Government's proposals for an urgent tax to fund



A flamboyant General Lebed after reaching a peace treaty with Chechen rebels this year

Army man who fell out of step

GENERAL Aleksandr Lebed was born 46 years ago in the southern Russian town of Novocherkassk.

1969: Entered Ryazan Airborne Command School.

1981: Battalion commander in Afghanistan.

1988: Commanded paratroop unit sent to suppress ethnic violence in Baku.

1989: Sent to Tbilisi to quell

Georgian independence movement.

1990: Delegate to last Communist Party Congress.

1991: Commanded paratroop force sent to Moscow during failed coup against Mikhail Gorbachev.

1992: Commanded Russian

14th Army in Moldova's breakaway republic of Transnistria.

1995: Resigned from the army and won a seat in parliament.

1996: Appointed National Security Adviser; negotiated an end to conflict in Chechnya; came third in the presidential election; sacked by President Yeltsin.

Western alliance caught out by sacking

By MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

NATO was left wrong-footed yesterday by the sudden dismissal of General Aleksandr Lebed.

Only last week, after a meeting with the general at alliance headquarters in Brussels, Nato officials declared that they could "do business" with the former paratrooper.

Every recent meeting between Nato and senior Russian figures has been dominated by the alliance's plan to expand membership to countries in Eastern

NATO

Europe. Nato has been desperate to persuade Moscow to drop its often highly antagonistic approach towards the alliance's vision of enlargement.

General Lebed was among those who had publicly condemned the Nato plan to expand eastwards. Yevgeny Primakov, the Russian Foreign Minister, was devastatingly hostile towards the plan when he last met Nato officials.

However, General Lebed, during his talks with Nato at its Brussels headquarters on October 7, modified his previous language and indicated that he was prepared to adopt a more pragmatic approach.

The apparent rapport with General Lebed gave Nato officials hope that they had succeeded in getting the message across that the alliance expansion plan did not pose any threat to Russia.

Although Javier Solana, the Nato Secretary-General, made no comment about General Lebed's sacking yesterday, there was no doubt that the move had caused considerable concern.

Nato's other main worry was that the general's departure might lead to further instability in Russia as President Yeltsin awaits heart surgery.

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The Clare Short Syndrome

When MP Clare Short was reunited this week with the son she gave up for adoption 31 years ago, she described the experience as "just wonderful". But do all adoption stories have fairytale endings? **Beverly Kemp** met three women who gave up a child

Sheila Walker is 56 and has been married to Geoff for 35 years. They have two children, Graham, 33, and Sue, 28. Her 37-year-old son John was placed for adoption in 1959 at the age of 4½ months. They were reunited five years ago. Sheila runs her local Surrey branch of Natural Parents Network.

THIRTY-SEVEN years later I still remember that last morning so clearly. There was a sense of doing everything for the last time. I dressed John in a little white suit with red piping and wrote a list of instructions for his mother about his feeding and sleeping routine. My Mum and I took a taxi to the Catholic Children's Society. Even now when I drive down those roads I still see that journey.

As soon as we arrived I handed John to my mother. Looking back I know that was the moment when I relinquished my baby. I never touched him again. The man from the Society could obviously sense that I was desperate not to part with John. He said very sternly: "Just think of the other woman's feelings if we have to take him away from her again in a few weeks' time." I thought: "What about my feelings?" Then he asked: "Don't you want to hold him to say goodbye?" I didn't. I couldn't get out of that building quickly enough. For two



Four-month-old John and his mother, Sheila, at the time of his adoption in July 1959

CASE STUDY 1

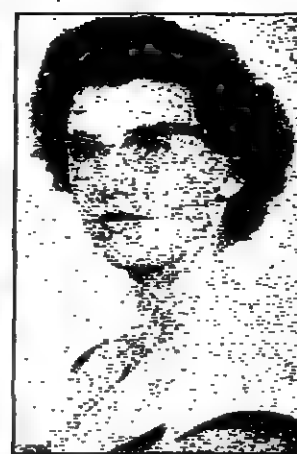
weeks afterwards I sat in a chair unable to do anything. Every time the clock struck certain hours I'd imagine feeding John. The pain was unbearable. The date July 27, 1959, will always be imprinted on my mind. I was never the same person again.

John's father and I were engaged when I was 19. I was very much in love with him so I wasn't that upset when I fell pregnant. But when I told my fiancé he changed completely. He went really cold on me and then he just vanished. I never saw or heard from him again. I later found out that he'd been having an affair.

My parents were furious when I told them I was pregnant. Right from the start it was made clear that the

baby would have to be adopted. I was terrified of going to a Mother and Baby Home so eventually Mum said: "You can have it at home but the baby must go." Arrangements for the adoption were put into place immediately. I made one request to the Moral Welfare worker — that John would go straight into his new family instead of temporary foster care. I was terrified that he might end up being left in an orphanage. The social services agreed that I could keep him until then. So we had four-and-a-half months together.

As the years go by what you want to know more than anything is whether your child



is dead or alive. I'd hear about an air disaster and think of John. I worried that he might have ended up living on the streets. He was also the right age to have fought in the Falklands, or the Gulf War. It's like slow mental torture.

When I gave birth to our first child, Graham, things started to improve. But I'd find myself thinking: "You have a big brother and you'll never know him." John was always on my mind. For 32 years I'd get this terrible depression as his birthday approached.

Six years ago I decided to try to find John. I'd reached the stage where I felt as if I had no choice. It only took six months of searching. I wrote to the Catholic Children's Society and they gave me his new

Christian name. With that I was able to get his adoption certificate, which contained his full name and address — a town only 20 miles away. The final approaches were made by priests. Then one day my intermediary rang me to say that John wanted to meet me the following Saturday. The days leading up to our meeting were horrendous. My mind was racing and I couldn't sleep a wink. Eventually I arrived at our meeting place two hours early.

I noticed a man making eye contact. I walked up to him, touched his arm and said: "Excuse me, are you John?" He stared at me, then he just threw his arms around me. I remember thinking to myself "Thank God! It's my baby!"

It was such a struggle relating to this adult man because in my mind he was still a baby. He wrote down his phone number and the first thing that came into my mind was "He can write." Saying goodbye was like handing him over again. It took me years to feel confident that I'd see him soon.

Our relationship is very good. We see each other every weekend. The compensation for me missing all those years is the knowledge that John is within a loving family. His mother and I are very good friends. She said to me: "I've had him for 32 years so we can share him now." But I'll always regret those lost years.



The Labour MP Clare Short and Toby Graham, the son she relinquished 31 years ago

CASE STUDY 2

Meeting healed the pain

CAROLINE is 52 and has been married to Bill for 27 years. She has three children from her marriage — two sons aged 25 and 23 and a daughter of 14. Her daughter Suzy is 31 and was placed for adoption in 1965. Suzy and Caroline were reunited in January of this year. Caroline works in the customer relations department of a high street retail chain and lives in Sussex.

MY first reaction when I found out I was pregnant was total horror. I told the father and he offered to marry me but the fact that I was pregnant didn't seem a good enough reason to get married to a man I knew I didn't love. It was a case of sitting down and asking myself, "What are my options?"

I didn't tell my parents. I'd left home at 16 because I couldn't stand it there and I was lodging with my grandmother. I wanted to keep the child but I knew that would mean going out to work and fostering my baby out. Adoption seemed to be the best option. The baby would have a mother and father and be

brought up in stable conditions. So I contacted the social services and they arranged a place for me in a mother and baby home.

It was a big old house near a park in Brighton. Everything was organised very strictly with the girls who hadn't given birth yet put on a housework rota. No one came in the ambulance with me. I gave birth alone. The worst thing was sitting in the maternity ward all by myself. All the other mums had their husbands and families visiting. I don't think I have felt so alone in my life.

Suzy was a gorgeous baby. I breast-fed her for as long as possible. On the day that our

babies were leaving we had to dress them up in their best clothes. Handing her over was the most painful moment of my life. I was too numb to even cry. Her parents had promised to keep her names of Susan Elizabeth. Over the years that gave me some comfort.

Meeting Suzy again this year was strange. It didn't seem real. I couldn't dash up and fling my arms around her because I felt I had to keep my composure. We compared features and she showed me photographs of her husband. It's difficult to say what I felt after that first meeting. Both of us were trying to fill in the gaps of all those years but I

think there was a sense of testing to see if we were on the same wavelength.

But I'm so pleased that I met her again. It heals some of the pain and completes the circle. You want to be able to stop thinking "if only". You want to know how everything turned out and that you did make the right decision.

Suzy is a lovely woman. We get on really well but it is more of a friendship than a mother/daughter relationship. She may have had different expectations. Perhaps she had a vision of this mother she had never met suddenly engulfing her. (Caroline and Bill are pseudonyms.)

'I love her and I am so sorry'

PATRICIA is 45 and has been married to Martin for 21 years. They have no children. Her daughter Zoe is now 27 and was adopted at the age of 20 months. Patricia is a secretary and lives in Surrey. She has met her daughter only once. Zoe did not remain in contact after their meeting.

I BITTERLY regret that Martin and I didn't have children. We agreed before we got married not to have any. The pain of giving up my own daughter was so devastating that I knew if I ever had another child it would only be a replacement for her. But over the years I have felt increasingly guilty about denying my husband the pleasure of having our own family purely because of my own past.

When I gave my daughter up for adoption my friends fell away. I don't think my sister has ever forgiven me. They didn't want to know me because they thought I was terrible for giving her

CASE STUDY 3

up. But we would have had nowhere to live. My parents fell on hard times and moved from a three-bedroomed house into a mobile home. My father told me there wasn't room for both myself and Zoe.

It was me who found Zoe in the end. Just after her 21st birthday Martin and I went to St Catherine's House and searched through every name that was the same as hers. The last name in the first book seemed the obvious one. A week later the certificate came. Zoe was living six miles away.

I drove past her house so many times. By then I also knew where she worked and I would go into the shop just to look at her. I was so tempted to go to the counter and speak to her. The only thing that stops you is fear of rejection. Then one day I was standing in reception at work. I

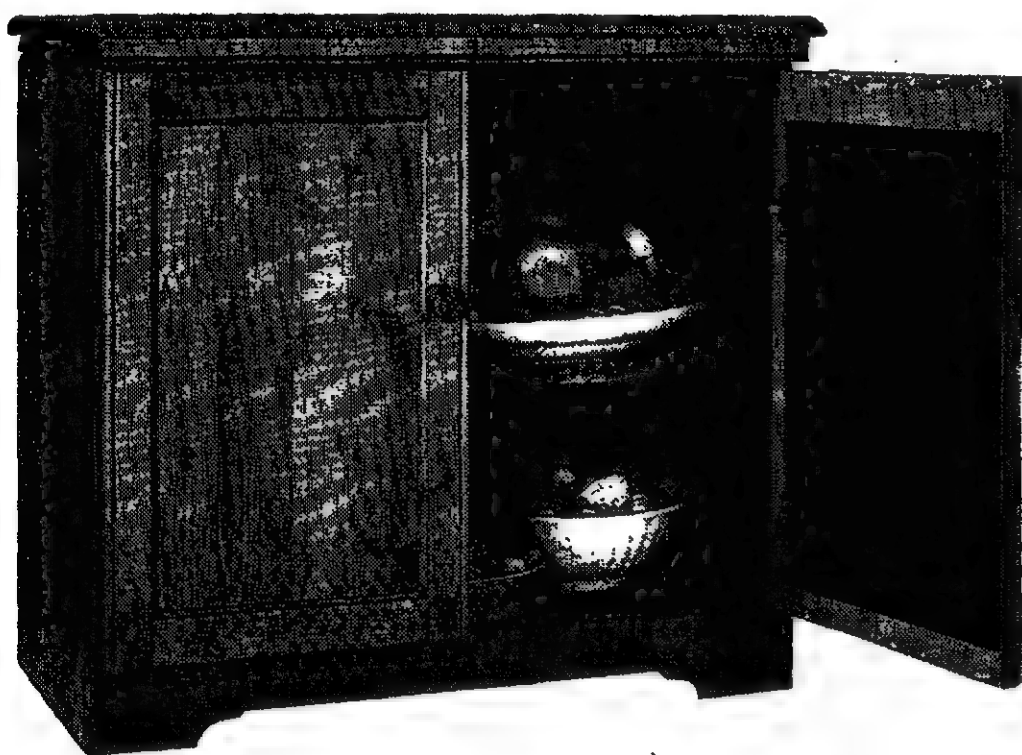
looked out the window and saw Zoe walk into our building. She was just two feet away from me. I didn't dare look at her because I knew I'd speak to her. She left and I burst into tears.

After what must have been a dozen letters Zoe finally agreed to meet me. We just talked about nothing. Neither of us seemed able to say the important things because Martin and her boyfriend were there, but Zoe didn't seem to want to be alone with me. There weren't any hugs or kisses. No "I'll phone you soon" or "I'll be in touch". Something told me she would never visit me again.

My dearest hope is that one day Zoe will change her mind and want me in her life. All I want to say is that I love her and I am so sorry. (Patricia, Martin and Zoe are pseudonyms.)

● The Natural Parents Network can be contacted at 10 Alondale Crescent, Garforth, Leeds LS25 1DH. Please enclose a SAE

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Passports, pets and the embassy wife with a mission

Britain's quarantine laws have to be changed, says Mary Fretwell, whose pressure group received fresh backing this week

The idea of the celebrity dogs Whisky and Soda Patten being locked up next summer on their return from Hong Kong is touching, but when it comes to campaigning, a pressure group needs a fine human figurehead like Mary Fretwell.

Tall, fair and sporting — you can spot her most mornings exercising a handsome grey Army horse from Knightsbridge Barracks — Lady Fretwell, wife of our former Ambassador to Paris, is chairman of the pressure group Passports for Pets. She finds her cause cresting a wave this week, when a group of distinguished vets came out in favour of changing the quarantine laws.

Vets in support of change include Lord Soulsby (the only vet in the House of Lords), Professor Richard Halliwell, and the writing vet Dr Bruce Fogle, who says of Lady Fretwell: "She is a powerhouse who will fight this battle with fortitude, dignity and diligence until she wins." She exhibits all the energy of one who has always been a "wife of" until now. Was it true that when *Country Life* asked her to write an article on Passports for Pets, adding "Would £200 be all right, as a fee?" Lady Fretwell sent off the piece — enclosing a cheque for £200? "Quite true!" she said, laughing. "And they sent the cheque back. So charming and civilised."

Mary (nee Dubois) was brought up in Purley with a mongrel named Humphrey that lived to be 21 without ever travelling abroad. She met her husband when she was a secretary at the Foreign Office and embarked on the peripatetic life, from Moscow in 1959 to the Paris embassy 1982-87, with their two adopted children and a series of Basset hounds starting with one named Zogie (Chinese for "imperialist running dog").

She accepted quarantine as a fact of diplomatic life: "It was part of the deal, if you travelled." Basset number two, Zoe, crossed the Atlantic "with nothing more than a vet's certificate of health" when John Fretwell became minister in Washington, and later became equally at home in the Paris embassy in the Mitterrand years. "The French are quite dog-friendly. Restaurants and hotels will often give the dog a bowl of food too."

Only once, staying at Chateau Latour, did they find a no-dog rule: having left Zoe in the car, Lady Fretwell got up in the middle of the night, crept out and spent the rest of the night in the car with the dog.

When Zoe became ill with cancer, a replacement named Bertie was fetched from England and Zoe obligingly housed Bertie (no easy matter in the vast embassy) before deciding one day that it was time to bow out.

She took her to the vet in the office Rolls, with the footman, and brought her body back in her basket, and buried her in the embassy garden, where there is still a little plaque: "Zoe, a beautiful, diplomatic Basset hound."

Leaving the gilded grandeur of the Paris embassy meant a homecoming with Bertie doomed to quarantine. The kennels at Bracknell advised Lady Fretwell not to visit, as it would upset the dog. "That just makes it easy for the kennels of course. I can't believe how stupid I was, for

agreeing. But after two months the good Lord gave me a kick: I went, and thank God I did."

"I hadn't realised how abandoned the dog feels; how they locked the doors like a prison on a dog in his prime, extremely fit and used to hearty exercise. The other dogs would hurt themselves at you as you passed. I sat on the concrete floor of Bertie's cage; there wasn't room to stand. His paws were worn, his bark was barely there, he was hoarse. I was in tears as I left him, wondering how I could have done this to him?"

"When freedom day came I paid the bill (£2,100) and kept my foot on the pedal all the way to Putney Heath for his first pee in freedom. He did get his bark back, and his paws healed. But he followed me anxiously everywhere, and that faith was never restored." When Bertie died at seven, Lady Fretwell took on Claude.

THE VALERIE GROVE INTERVIEW



a beaten and maltreated four-year-old from the Basset Rescue service, who arrived unable to wag his tail, bit everyone in the family but is now well-adjusted and tail-wagging.

Passports for Pets began as FIDO: Federation of Irate Dog Owners, the name suggested by Michael Kallenbach who had written angrily in *The Times* after collecting his Schnauzers from quarantine. Patsy Bloom (founder of the Pet Plan insurance scheme) suggested the change to Pass-

'When the law is changed we shall organise an outing'

ports for Pets to include cats too. "We set up in November 1994 when the select committee on agriculture came out unanimously in favour of changing the law. I thought Yippee, we're off. God how naive can one be..."

"We have fat dossiers about people who tried to do this before, but they all hit the buffers and ran out of steam." Passports for Pets went for high profile support. They have 2,700 paid-up members including Lord Rothermere, Mary Soames, Mark Birley, Elizabeth Hurley, Jilly Cooper, and the dog-loving former US Ambassador Raymond Seitz. "Glitzy names don't do our campaign any harm," says Lady Fretwell. Frank Lowe of Lowe Bell took over advertising, and a recent fundraiser at Aubrey House raised £9,000.

The deaths of the Air Chief Marshal's and Danish consul's dogs in quarantine have

helped to swing media opinion round — except for *The Times* leader last Monday, voicing caution. The British Veterinary Association has not yet come out for change, but vets are known to be six to one in favour. Prof Halliwell said at this week's vet press conference: "I speak as a former part-owner of quarantine kennels. Only when I began to look into the scientific advances, and to look at what other countries like Sweden have done, did I realise that we in Britain are in an absurd and untenable situation."

Scientific advances have made vaccination 100 per cent effective. There is no threat from animals resident in the EU, identifiable by microchip with proof of vaccination, nor from those returning from Australia and New Zealand, which have always been rabies-free. (Proper quarantine safeguards for dogs from India or Africa would sensibly remain.)

Dr Bruce Fogle told the story of a dead man who took his hearing dog on a weekend break to Jersey. Because the aircraft was diverted for a few minutes to Cherbourg, where nobody disembarked, the hearing dog had to be quarantined for six months, during which time it forgot all its training — when there had been no conceivable risk. Dr Fogle is hoping to take his own two ageing golden retrievers to romp through the woods of Sweden ("a squeaky-clean country, and rabies-free") before they die.

Meanwhile it is notoriously easy to bring a dog through Dover in a car, and pet-smuggling flourishes. "Quarantine is a leaking sieve," said Prof Halliwell. When people ring Lady Fretwell about smuggling pets in, she tells them she does not want to know. She hears heartrending stories about expatriate couples: when one spouse dies, the other faces the double bereavement of a homecoming without the consoling pet. But there is no mawkish sentiment in Lady Fretwell's attitude to her campaign: "It is a political campaign," she says, "despite being based on animal welfare and on science. You have to be positive and respectful of the facts."

Sir John, now retired, finds his Putney home taken over by Passports for Pets, but is dedicated to the cause, applying a diplomatic blue pencil to his wife's flights of impassioned prose. She has already talked to the channel ferry companies about how they might handle a rush of people taking their dogs to France ("It will be like the end of sweet rationing") with a specially allocated space on deck for dogs.

"When this law is finally changed," she declares, "we shall organise a big outing to Paris on Le Shuttle with our dogs. Eurostar have a no-animals rule, but I am sure they would adapt to legislation and accommodate us. We'll book into a good restaurant and then come back to Waterloo with our dogs, get into a taxi and just go home."

"It's extraordinary when you think about it, that in every other country in Europe you can do that, except ours."



Energy and passion from Lady Fretwell: "She is a powerhouse who will fight this battle with fortitude, dignity and diligence until she wins," says vet Dr Bruce Fogle

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Is Russia ready for a Cromwell?

The Kremlin hasn't seen the last of Lebed, says **Dominic Lieven**

The sacking by Boris Yeltsin of Aleksandr Lebed is anything but unexpected. General Lebed was taken into President Yeltsin's team to ensure victory in this year's elections. He has served that purpose. Mr Yeltsin in theory granted General Lebed wide-ranging powers and responsibilities, thereby arousing intense hostility among the Kremlin barons. With a serious and much-postponed heart operation now in the offing, the struggle to succeed Mr Yeltsin among the barons has become intense. This has made coherent government impossible. It has also ensured a bitter struggle to control the security forces, whose support in the event of Mr Yeltsin's death might be very important.

In the battle for popularity, Mr Lebed has proved formidable, using his position to conclude a truce in Chechnya which has overwhelming public support. Last week he threatened in *The Times* to name the guilty men responsible for that disastrous war. No other figure at Mr Yeltsin's court has anything approaching Mr Lebed's appeal to the public as an incorruptible outsider in Kremlin politics, or his potential to forge a centrist nationalist and ex-communist coalition, without directly threatening the big private economic interests. He was too dangerous to keep anywhere near the levers of power.

There is unlikely to be any immediate unconstitutional challenge to Mr Yeltsin's decision. General Lebed is not universally popular among the senior officers of the army. Nor has he been given the time or opportunity to place his own lieutenants in effective control of the armed forces. It is unlikely that General Lebed would appeal for military support or that he would get it if he tried to do so. However frustrated, the Russian Army has a long tradition of non-intervention in politics. Nor is it the army as a whole that matters but rather a group of elite units, some army, some paramilitary, that surround Moscow. Some of them answer to one or other of the barons rather than to the Defence Minister, General Igor Rodionov. The latter, though beholden to General Lebed, is new to his job; his personal experience of military intervention in domestic politics is an unhappy one, his career almost having been ruined when units under his command broke up a demonstration in Tbilisi in 1989, killing many in the process.

It is in General Lebed's interest to bide his time. His sacking will have made him more popular than ever with much of the electorate. They despise the professional politicians and the new rich businessmen in Mr Yeltsin's court. Anatoli Chubais, the President's chief of staff who masterminded the crash privatisation of the economy, is probably the most hated man in Russia. The seemingly bluff, naive but patriotic Lebed fits the popular stereotype of a Russian hero. Many ordinary Russians will now see him as having shared their own fate: like them, he has been tricked, robbed and humiliated by the fat cats who rule their country. What all this will add up to

in political terms depends on how long Mr Yeltsin survives. The constitution states that if the President dies the Prime Minister acts in his place, with new presidential elections occurring within three months. His office would give Viktor Chernomyrdin the power base to make a bid for the presidency. He would be supported, with varying degrees of enthusiasm, by most of those who backed Mr Yeltsin in this year's election. But he is unlikely to be able to extend his appeal beyond the pro-Yeltsin coalition. Many promises were made in the election; few have been kept. The state is bankrupt. Millions of Russians are owed months of back-pay. For pensioners, farmers, many industrial workers and all those dependent on state handouts, this will be a grim winter. It is unlikely that Mr Chernomyrdin could repeat Mr Yeltsin's success should even half fair presidential elections occur before next spring.

General Lebed would probably be able to line up many financial backers, eager to clamber onto his bandwagon. As yet, however, he has no organisation. Gennadi Zyuganov, the Communist Party leader, has plenty of organisation and enough money but no charisma. A deal between the Communist leadership and General Lebed is improbable but not impossible. In the first round of elections it is also possible that many Communists would transfer their allegiance to General Lebed. In a straight fight against Mr Chernomyrdin in the second round, General Lebed would have a great chance of victory.

Should this happen there would be no need for panic in the West. Mr Lebed is no kind of madman. His stand on the Chechen war has been courageous and well judged. He came to dislike extremist Russian nationalists while commanding general in Moldova. On Nato's expansion, his private opinion seems to be as moderate as any Russian politician's could be. He is far too aware of Russia's weakness to cultivate neo-imperialist ambitions. And he has been a consistent supporter of Russian capitalism, which alone can make the country powerful again. But a future President Lebed would have little experience in economics and could be easily influenced. And his victory could excite nationalist extremists among the 25 million Russians in the Near Abroad. It will be safer for Russia and the world if Mr Yeltsin survives this winter and elections wait until industrial recovery and a restoration of state finances begin to reduce the misery of scores of millions of provincial Russians. But Russia's very identity is now up for grabs. For a generation at least, this is going to be a difficult country with which to deal. The Russian tradition is one of immense patience punctuated by vastly destructive explosions of mass anger. The 1990s will probably not see a recurrence of this problem. But we cannot be sure.

The author is professor of Russian government at the London School of Economics.



Picture exclusive: Lost Tory son comes home to mother at last!

Taleban meets Caliban

Whether in Afghanistan or Algeria, Muslim fundamentalism contradicts the spirit and the history of Islam

Stop Press. Thirty-four killed in Algeria ambush by Muslim fundamentalists, in Algerian town of Laghouat. Passengers of a bus were told to get out for identity checks, and one by one their throats were cut. (This news was relayed to the world a fortnight ago in a one-column *Times* story well down the page.)

No doubt my readers are horrified by this story, but I have to say that it is by no means remarkable, for the story has been replicated in Algeria approximately 30,000 times over not many years. The other side of this terrible argument is by no means unwilling to shoot first and toss a hand grenade after; many an Algerian soldier has shot a fundamentalist without asking him first if he would like a cup of tea.

And if my readers are bemused by this tale of murder most foul, and wonder why and how it comes to pass, I can tell you. The beautiful and holy Muslim religion is not a chameleon, though the fanatical wing of it is making it into one. Remember, those who cut the throats are not Christians or followers of other religions, they are brother Muslims, presumably doing it so that the fundamentalist Muslims will eventually take over the entire Muslim world, and there will be only fundamentalists.

Anyone with eyes and understanding must have seen over the years, and not very many years, that the Muslim religion is becoming much more prominent in Britain. That prominence gives shame to the other religions in Britain. For instance, the Christians are getting fewer, or if not fewer, not going deep into their souls; we Jews are getting less and less interested in our beautiful religion; the minor religions show no sign of growing.

But the Muslims take their wonderful religion seriously, and that is one reason that they multiply. And, incidentally, how many people who dip into the Christian Bible or the Jewish Talmud ignore the Koran?

But there is another side to the religion of Muhammad. Indeed, there are many sides, but they all seem to come together, and they all seem to say that there should be but one religion, and that one the Muslim.

The fighting in Afghanistan has been long and bloody, nor is it settled now. The Afghan capital is still besieged, but for the moment

Taleban—the name of the new rulers—reigns. And the first thing that they did when they had conquered was to hang the former president, Najibullah, and leave him and others hanging for a few days. It seems that whatever is the nature of the new rulers, it does not encompass any kind of religion other than the Muslim one. And moreover, the nature of the new Muslim rulers is the kind that does slit throats.

Moreover, it took not days but mere hours to make clear that anyone who lives under the fanatical wing of Muhammad is to live under a reign of terror, though Muhammad surely did not want that. But the fanatical wing of the Muslim religion has conquered, and was now in the hands of that religion. And the words of the trumpet that sounded were: "We will punish all those who do not follow Islamic teachings, whether educated or uneducated."

Eyewitnesses in the capital say they saw armed Taleban fighters thrashing two women with aerials ripped from a car; the women were apparently guilty of not wearing strict Islamic dress. Women who fail to wrap themselves in these robes are horribly beaten. (You can see, on any pavement in London, women shrouded entirely in black cloth except for a quarter-inch slit for their eyes. But in their case it is not enforced by secular law.) In Kabul, on the other hand, a married couple, riding together on their own bicycle, were beaten because they were riding too close. Men who do not have beards are told that must grow one or be beaten, perhaps to death. A butcher had two of his fingers cut off for selling meat at the wrong price.

Television sets must be destroyed, as must videotaping and cassettes. Games like soccer are forbidden. Pet birds are illegal, and because they may not be fed they must die. Playing chess or card games is forbidden. Praying at home is banned; it must be

done only in the mosques. Girls may not leave their homes, nor may they talk to men other than relations. Nor may they go to school or learn. Women with serious injuries can be dragged back to their homes. Music is banned (any kind of music). A couple having an affair are stoned to death. Anyone found drinking liquor will be stoned to death.

In hospitals the patients are dying, because many of the doctors are women, and thus may not work. Take this: "A short distance away a woman doctor was pleading with the mullahs, saying she had to work

because she had three patients to operate on. Her plea was in vain: they sent her home." (Presumably, the patients died.)

Black-turbaned Taleban fighters move through the streets five times a day, beating men into the mosques for prayers and ordering shops to close. Women may not enter mosques. Indeed, if they are even seen out, or wear modern clothing they are whipped. A thief, if caught, has his hand cut off.

The number of women who were working before Taleban arrived was roughly 250,000; none of these is now allowed to work. And tens of thousands of people are daily fleeing from Taleban troops, some because of the hideous life that now lays before them, others because study and work and climbing the ladder and even laughter would disappear.

There is hunger in the orphanage, and not a single toy, the place is filthy. One woman does what she can all the time in fear of being beaten if Taleban members see her. (At this point it is surely proper to hail Christopher Thomas, our man in Kabul, who brings all this awful news to *Times* readers.)

We should have known, though who could have even guessed? Did you or I give more than a glance at the murder case in Leeds, in which a Moslem killed his sister-in-law — he

drove his car three times over her — after she had walked out of her arranged marriage, saying that she had brought shame on the family. (He was jailed for life, but for all I know he might even now be pleased with himself.)

There is a great deal more to say about this almost incredible story, and I shall certainly say it. But I want to go back to where we started — that is, the way in which the Islamic peoples takes their religion.

I mentioned earlier the 30,000 deaths in Algeria which were solely concerned, on both sides, with Islam. On one side is a country struggling to keep its head (Algeria was moving towards real democracy when she had to break off because of the fight against the fanatics). And on the other side is a country in which the number of innocent people murdered per week is counted, and the higher the number, the greater is the delight of those who are doing the counting, because Islam, it seems, it that wants it this way.

It is difficult to believe that the mad savages in Taleban are of the same belief, but it is true. I look at the Koran very infrequently, but even from my glances at it I instantly find myself in a world as beautiful as it is wonderful. The language in the Christian Bible is so wonderful because of the translations, and the Hebrew ones are similar because they are so profound. But the Koran is a poem in itself, and it is impossible to understand why some Muslims want to exterminate not only non-Muslims, but countless men and women who do follow the teaching of Muhammad.

Can anyone make sense of the horrors of Taleban? Why are there no wedding parties? Why may people not listen to music? Why may we not play chess? Why must I grow a beard? Why should children not be taught? Why must people be stoned to death if they drink a glass of wine? I don't know. But what I do know is that the Muslim breath of life is a wonderful one, but the ravings of Taleban are poisoning one of the greatest teachings in the shape of the Koran and all it tells us.

There are, of course, hundreds of things it tells us, but assuredly it does not tell us to go to Algeria, to get out of our bus on the pretence that we have to identify checks, and, one by one, have our throats cut. Truly, Taleban has come to Caliban.

Philip Howard



Did David get shot of Goliath with a .22 pebble?

Perhaps, in our natural emotional reaction to Dunblane, we should ban all handguns. If on a cold calculation of probabilities such a ban is likely to save one life, I would vote for it. But it is not obvious that a total ban would do so. The probabilities need to be calculated, coldly.

The "sport" of pistol-shooting seems to me sillier even than motor-racing. But then I am a purist about sport, which seems terribly important while the crowd roars, but is not really a matter of life and death. They should turn the shooting-gallery under Parliament into a crèche. And some of the advertisements and fantasies in the gun magazines and video games are chilling. They suggest that for some a handgun is the equivalent of a rotweiler to others: a macho symbol for inadequate and dangerous young men.

When I was taught to shoot a pistol, I could not hit a barn door at ten paces. The noise was deafening. The gun jumped more disconcertingly even than a rocket-launcher. Missing a large target with ten shots, I amused and amazed the sergeant. But since then the lethal British arms industry has improved the weapon. It is no longer called a pistol but a handgun. From being the most inaccurate and erratic of weapons, it has become an efficient engine of mayhem.

The pistol started life as a toy gun for officers and ladies. Shakespeare's Pistol, the swash-buckler who fires words as though they were blunderbusses, would have missed his comic target (the medieval brag of Roman comedy) if he had been called Handgun. Though that is what pistol means in the original High German. The first reference to pistols in English is to teaching Elizabethan noblemen and gentlemen to skirmish with pistols on horseback during the Spanish alarim.

Duellists, selecting pearl-handled pistols from boxes held out by solemn seconds as if on silver salvers, generally missed, and lived to fight again another day. The gunfighters of the Wild West fought at such short range that the gun flashes set their clothes on fire. And Clay Allison ejaculated so prematurely on the draw that he shot off his own toe.

The image of Clint Eastwood or John Wayne keeping a tin can in the air at a hundred paces with pistol shots is a mirage in gunsmoke. Most of the gun-slingers would have caused more damage if they really had slung their Colts, not fired them.

But the attraction of guns runs old and deep. You can see it by taking small boys to an old-fashioned country fair, where the main attraction for them (but not their sisters) is failing to hit targets with purposefully inaccurate pistols. Freud would explain pistols as penis-symbols. I think they are also modern examples of the archetype of little man winning because he has a deadly weapon.

The earliest paintings show (and perhaps are rituals to ensure) humans managing to kill larger beasts with missiles. The boy David defeated the giant Goliath with the ancient equivalent of a pistol. And Philoctetes had to be coned into sailing for Troy so that his deadly arrows could defeat the beefy Trojans.

Archery was a sport for Kipling's ladies at Simla. And remember May Welland in *The Age of Innocence*: feather-headed Brownstone socialite, but infallible with her grey goose feathers at the butts. Goddesses such as Artemis, and for that rate, metaphorically Aphrodite, could defeat monstrous male brutes with their arrows. The missile that helps the weak to beat the strong has deep roots in legend and literature. The slang for a pistol during Prohibition was an equalizer, because it equalized the puny with the giants. Such students of slang as J. G. Hammon Runyon and P. G. Wodehouse record such uses as: "He outs with the old equalizer and starts blasting away."

And of course he misses. Today he no longer would, alas, because of the devastating power and rapidity of handguns. So it will be no loss if the pistol in Britain rides off into the sunset, as old gunslingers should. But to judge from the ancient myths and the modern news, getting rid of murder, cruelty and madness from the human condition will take a bit longer. But at least we can make massacre more difficult. That is part of being truly human as well as humane.

Willett out

LATEST casualty in the cash-for-questions scandal is the Oxford Union. David Willets, Paymaster General, pulled out at the last minute of last night's debate: "This House has no confidence in Her Majesty's Government."

Willets, a former Tory whip, wrote a memo in 1994 suggesting ways of influencing the Select Committee on Members' Interests to the Government's advantage when it was investigating the cash-for-questions affair.

On Wednesday, the House of Commons agreed to look into Willets's role in the affair. And on Wednesday, he had to inform the Union that he would be unable to attend the debate, pleading a "very urgent meeting".

Oxford has drawn deep on Conservative reserves to replace a man considered to be among the brightest in government. Enter David Ashby, MP for North-West Leicestershire, and a man with a emptyish looking diary since he lost a libel case concerning his sexuality against *The Sunday Times*. A verbose sort. Ashby was delighted to fill in.

"We are very disappointed that David Willets couldn't come," said

Jenny Carter-Manning, the union's President. "But I am delighted about Mr Ashby."

Ashby will face Peter Lilley, Secretary of State for Social Security, who has not managed to find an alternative engagement in time.

Go West

OKLAHOMA should brace itself for the arrival of a noisy new neighbor.



Fergie goes Okie

bour. The Duchess of York has indicated that if she decides to emigrate from Great Britain she might consider moving to the great Midwest of the United States.

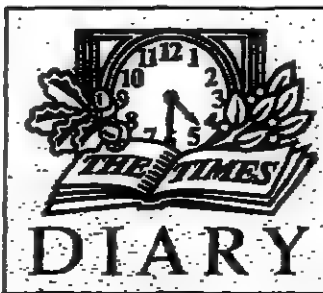
Speaking to a New York newspaper columnist about persistent rumours of a move to America, the Duchess said: "The Midwest gets overlooked. I like what I have seen there." It is understood that the Duchess was impressed by the pace of life in Oklahoma after she gave money to the city after last year's bomb blast.

The Midwest is, by tradition, a realm of slow rhythms, factory towns and flat grain fields, where the boys are called Rusty and the six-pack of beer has replaced the six-shooter and, above all, where folk respect privacy. The Midwest is also horse country.

Cowed

EYEING each other snakishly on Wednesday night were Sir Jocelyn Stevens, chairman of English Heritage, and Lord McAlpine both at a London party to celebrate Roy Strong's latest book, *The English Arcadia: Country Life 1897-1997*.

It was a political decision, nothing personal, explained Stevens, chomping on a fistful of canapés, his stout partner Vivien Duffield beside him.



He could not afford to be seen in public with Alistair McAlpine ever since the peer, dad for the evening in a loud tweed, signed up with the Referendum Party.

"Virginia [Bottomley] would sack me," said Stevens, "although I've no doubt that Alistair will throw the best party at their conference this weekend."

McAlpine was flattered: "I'm a great admirer of Jocelyn's sense of humour," he said, "but I'm no admirer of Mrs Bottomley."

Beer match

SOUTH AFRICA's cricket team has started its tour of India on the worst possible note: their consignment of beer has been held up by customs. Officials at Bombay airport have impounded the team's colossal load of Castle lager and

asked for approximately £5,000 to release it. South Africa's High Commissioner in Delhi has been brought in to negotiate the lager's freedom against a backdrop of some notably venomous fast bowling from his team.

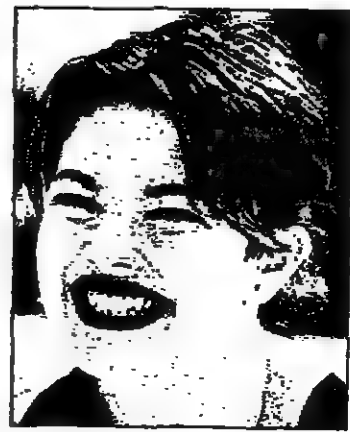
"It is important that the players have their beer, particularly when they are winning," said Ali Bacher, South African Cricket's head man. "They are winning a lot at the moment so they need a lot of beer."

Celebrating its 150th anniversary at a party in Monte's nightclub on Wednesday night, Cartier chose to invite Prince Michael of Kent as guest of honour. The asking price for the Prince these days is £20,000, payable to his Hyde Park appeal. For this one can watch him eat supper then gowp at him in a lurid discotheque.

Less is more

ASK Drew Barrymore to strip or swear on screen and she will do so with the same enthusiasm Liz Taylor tackled a drinks cabinet. Ask her to sing, and as Woody Allen has just discovered, and Miss Barrymore comes over all shy.

She was the one member of the cast in Woody Allen's new musical *Everybody Says I Love You* who refused to sing on camera. Julia Rob-

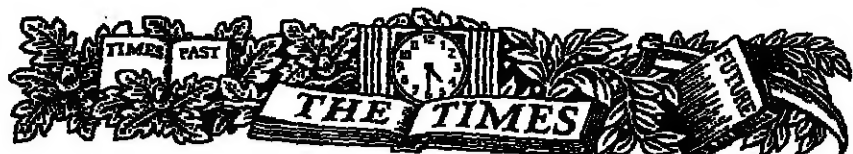


Barrymore: dubbed

erts was quite happy to make her celluloid singing debut for the film, but not the precociously experienced Miss Barrymore.

"She just felt that she was tone deaf, and that there was a low limit beneath which she was not prepared to go," said a loose-tongued clapperboard man. It is probably just as well. Those who heard her try one song compared her voice to that of a cat on heat. Faced by this, Allen, a renowned stickler, reluctantly agreed to have the song dubbed while she mimed.

P-H-S



LEBED IN LIMBO

A man more dangerous outside than inside the Kremlin walls

Little more than a hundred days ago, President Yeltsin appeared on television with Aleksandr Lebed, appointed the popular former general to the powerful post of national security adviser and hinted that here was his natural political successor. It was an alliance that sealed Mr Yeltsin's reelection; but it soured almost immediately. Yesterday, visibly angry, Mr Yeltsin went on television again, flourished his pen and signed on camera the decree dismissing Mr Lebed for intolerable ambition, failure to consult him on decisions and refusal to work with the rest of the Russian Government.

Mr Yeltsin must have felt that he had no other choice. Ever since he was hospitalised pending heart surgery, power struggles within the Kremlin have discredited and all but paralysed his administration. Mr Lebed is not the only member of the Government with presidential ambitions, but he has been the only man rash enough to behave as though the presidency were already his in all but name — and to question publicly Mr Yeltsin's fitness to exercise power.

From hospital, Mr Yeltsin has tried to cut him down to size, rebuking him publicly for "quarrelling with everyone at the same time" and leaving the Prime Minister, Viktor Chernomyrdin, a free hand to elbow him out of the Kremlin's inner councils. The genie defiantly refused to be stuffed back into the bottle. His list of enemies lengthened week by week, finally including Igor Rodionov, whom he had insisted on having appointed Defence Minister, and even the formerly supportive Russian media.

A complete rupture was therefore Mr Yeltsin's only way of reasserting his authority before it was dissipated beyond recovery. Mr Lebed's dismissal may procure a truce in the Kremlin, which can sell this deeply unpopular move only as a blow for unity and discipline. But the price could be high. Mr Yeltsin cannot be unaware of the risks. His own rise to power accelerated after President Gorbachev hounded him from office and the parallels are uncomfortably close. Mr Lebed far outstriks Mr Yeltsin or any other minister in the public trust and would almost certainly win a presidential election if it were called today. This could

be the best move of Mr Lebed's short political career — as, by courting dismissal, he seems himself to have calculated.

Mr Lebed has the aura of a strong leader. In a deeply corrupted political system, his reputation for personal probity has survived his recent alliance of convenience with Aleksandr Korzhakov, the sinister and suspiciously rich former presidential bodyguard dismissed last June. Out of office, he is free to return to the seductively simple themes of honesty, order and patriotism that drew unpaid soldiers and miners, scientists, pensioners and jobless youngsters to his side in the last election campaign. Between now and the end of the year, he can test his strength in Russian regional elections. He is none the worse off for being seen as a political loner; and if he can attract well-heeled backers he will be in pole position if Mr Yeltsin's health irrevocably breaks down.

Above all, the peace deal he has brokered in Chechnya through sheer force of personality is as popular with ordinary Russian people as it is unpopular with the political classes. If it breaks down now, as it will may, Mr Yeltsin will be bitterly blamed for siding with the hawkish Interior Minister, Anatoli Kulikov, in the dispute that Mr Chernomyrdin made the catalyst for Mr Lebed's dismissal. Mr Kulikov's accusations against Mr Lebed were so grave that, if they had been demonstrably true, Russians would probably have accepted Mr Yeltsin's decision. Mr Lebed was accused of plotting to seize power in a coup, deploying a 50,000-strong military "legion" and enlisting the support of Chechen rebel forces. But the legion does not exist, the Chechens quite plausibly retort that they have enough on their hands at home without "sorting out sordid squabbles in Moscow" and Mr Chernomyrdin himself, while saying that some of the accusations were true, dismissed any question of "mutinies and putches".

The popular verdict is likely therefore to be that Mr Lebed was the victim of a Kremlin plot redolent of the Communist era. If people conclude that he was duped by Mr Lebed's political enemies, Mr Yeltsin's show of strength may yet come to be seen as further evidence of his weakness.

FOR THE LOVE OF A MAN

Diane Blood should be allowed to have her child

When a much-loved husband dies, one of the few consolations left to the widow is the reminder of him in their children. Though the man has gone, some part of him lives on. There is a natural sympathy for Diane Blood in wanting to use her dead husband's sperm to produce the child that together they had planned and eagerly awaited.

She and her late husband, Stephen, badly wanted to start a family. Thinking that she was pregnant, the couple had already started to decorate a nursery and to subscribe to a baby magazine when he died suddenly of meningitis. In law, however, a donor has to give written consent before artificial insemination can take place. Because Mr Blood fell ill unexpectedly and because he never recovered from his coma, such consent was not possible to obtain.

Had the insemination taken place while he was still unconscious but not yet dead, there would have been no legal problems. Treatment as a couple requires no written consent. Mrs Blood thought, however, at the time that she was already bearing his child. Now she has been denied the chance to do so, first by the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA), and yesterday by a judge.

It is understandable why written consent is always required for artificial insemination by donor in which a stranger's sperm is used to replace that of an infertile male partner. There are also circumstances in which a husband might not want his wife to use his sperm at a later date: for instance, if they had parted in the meantime and he did not

want the responsibility of more children. But these signatures are required so that the donor should not suffer from ill-advised use of his sperm. How can a dead man's interests be harmed by such use, least of all by his wife?

The HFEA rightly points out that, except when couples are treated together, it cannot legally make an exception to the rule on written consent where insemination takes place in Britain. But Parliament gave it total discretion on the import and export of sperm and embryos. There is nothing to stop it giving permission to Mrs Blood to undergo treatment in Belgium or America, in both of which countries such treatment is legal and has already been offered to her.

Baroness Warnock, who drew up the original guidelines for the HFEA, said yesterday that, had her committee envisaged such a case, it would have found no ethical or public policy objections to allowing Mrs Blood to become pregnant with her husband's sperm. As it is, she can use the sperm of any donor but her husband: an extraordinary state of affairs.

The HFEA has shown an unyieldingness that seems singularly inappropriate to this case. It demanded costs from a woman who has already remortgaged her house and raised £50,000 to fight this far. It opposed her right to appeal, which she can anyway afford. This case is unlikely to set a precedent. The authority should now use the discretion it possesses under the Act, abandon its narrow legalism, and adopt some compassionate common sense.

DEAD CAT SOCIETY

Down Under, a surplus of feline poms

New charges are still being added to the indictment against Captain Cook, more than 200 years after he first landed in Australia. Ships of the time, whether manned by explorers or convicts, kept cats against rats and mice. When an 18th-century Tiddlers first stepped ashore from the *Endeavour* he started something bigger than he could have imagined, bigger, indeed, than the local population: there are now more cats than people in Australia.

Eighteen million of them are wild and they munch smaller Australian fauna for lunch. One expert reckons that wild cats have destroyed 23 Australian species of birds and small furry animals. The Army was called out in Queensland not long ago for target practice on a plague of wild cats bothering a town. An Australian pet cat, Himmy, has put in a claim to be the world's largest. His neck measured 15 inches, his stomach 32, yet his owner still made the implausible claim that Himmy was a moderate eater.

The anti-cat movement Down Under is quite clear that Britain is yet again the source of all Australia's ills. A lethal virus has recently been let loose on the country's 120 million rabbits which are also judged to be out of control and were, of course, introduced by the British. Bunnies are now keeling over in their thousands, and one

Australian MP wants to treat the cat population likewise over the next 15 years. Since the Government is also culling koalas, expect to hear soon that the cuddly bears were also hidden in Captain Cook's luggage.

Merely killing or neutering cats seems a little dull. Since a fashion for wilderness cuisine is sweeping America and Canada, why not put moggies on the menu? Follow the example of Dr John Walmsley from Adelaide, who wears a catskin hat and intends to cook cat in his restaurants. If smart restaurateurs elsewhere offer carbonade of hyena, goulash of alligator and snackfoods made from mealworm larvae, chefs searching for new culinary opportunities should not turn up their noses at kitten en croûte, pussyburgers or salad of Siamese with lemon grass and saffron.

To make the streets of Sydney safe for the duck-billed platypus to roam without fear of being mugged by ravenous cats, every feasible idea will have to be brought into service. If Australia has a cat surplus, perhaps somewhere else suffers a shortage. As it happens, Paris does. The French capital's rats are multiplying too fast for comfort. Nothing in history is irreversible: let transport ships set sail from Australia to France with convicted cats on board, destined for a more useful life back in the old world from which their ancestors came.

New rules threat to the vulnerable

From the Chief Executive of the National Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux and the Director of the Child Poverty Action Group

Sir, The legal protection afforded to some of our most vulnerable citizens will be seriously diminished by regulations which were made during the parliamentary recess and will come into force on October 21, which change the rules governing appeals to social security, disability and child-support appeal tribunals.

The new regulations are clearly intended to reduce both the number of appeals and, it would seem, the proportion that succeed. Claimants will be expected in future to provide more information and legal argument. Many will not be able to cope with this and, without access to professional help or advice, will simply lose by default.

The regulations will also reduce substantially the proportion of appeals in which the claimant appears in person before the tribunal. At present, an oral hearing is arranged in every case. Claimants who do not wish to attend can inform the tribunal clerk and the appeal is then heard in their absence, but most claimants do attend. In future, oral hearings will be held only where specifically requested.

This is a reversal of a long-standing policy. Claimants have formerly been encouraged to attend, since tribunals often find it impossible to arrive at a balanced judgment without questioning them.

Statistics consistently demonstrate that appeals heard in absence are much less likely to succeed: the most recent figures show success rates of 46 per cent for unrepresented claimants attending social security appeal tribunals, 64 per cent for those attending with a representative, but less than 10 per cent for non-attenders.

Under the new rules, claimants who are able to obtain advice from a Citizens Advice Bureau or other professional adviser and decide to go to a tribunal will, as now, mostly receive a favourable decision. Those without such advice are much less likely to take up their right to a hearing and the vast majority will have their appeals rejected.

These fundamental changes have been made even before the DSS consultation exercise on decision-making and appeals closes. They cannot be prevented from coming into force on October 21 since they do not require prior parliamentary approval. They can, however, be defeated subsequently by a resolution of either House.

On behalf of the Social Security Consortium we urge MPs of all parties to back such a resolution and ensure that it is debated at the earliest possible time.

Yours faithfully,
ANN ABRAHAM,
Chief Executive, National Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux.

SALLY WITCHER,
Director,
Child Poverty Action Group,
NACAB, Myddelton House,
115-123 Pentonville Road, N1,
October 11.

Powers of the Bar

From Mr Ramnik Shah

Sir, With respect to Mr Neil Addison (letter, October 15), for so long as there remain two distinct branches of the legal profession, it is only right that a choice has to be made between practising as a solicitor and practising as a barrister, and both the Bar Council and the Law Society should ensure that those who seek to practise should do so exclusively within one discipline or the other.

Personally I had no qualms about having to disbar myself on becoming a solicitor more than 20 years ago, having initially qualified as a barrister some 13 years previously.

The kind of revision of "the Bar's archaic rules" advocated by Mr Addison would create a middle ground, an overlapping or functions between barristers and solicitors which would not, I suggest, having also practised in a "fused" common law jurisdiction, necessarily be in the public interest.

Against the background of a climate of reform of the English legal system as a whole, however, what we need is a greater understanding of the different roles of barristers and solicitors, better communication between them and more respect for their respective skills and specialisations.

This can happen only provided their specific identities are not allowed to erode.

Yours truly,
RAMNIK SHAH,
Preuveners & Co (solicitors),
Elm House,
113-115 London Road,
Mitcham, Surrey,
October 15.

Dinner for six

From Mrs Harriet Osborne

Sir, Mrs Renée Armstrong has only herself to blame (letter, October 15; see also letter, October 9). If her husband refuses to refurbish her "awful" kitchen because "it works all right", she should make sure it doesn't.

Yours faithfully,
HARRIET OSBORNE,
90 Warwick Road, Ealing, W5,
October 15.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Nobel Prize for Indonesia's critics

From the Deputy Director, Article 19

Sir, You rightly point out that the Indonesian Government is unlikely to be shamed, let alone moved, to action by the award of the Nobel Peace Prize to Bishop Carlos Belo and José Ramos Horta of East Timor (leading article, October 14).

Sadly, a large part of Indonesia's population may also wonder what the fuss is all about. Since Indonesia's invasion of East Timor in 1975, they have been consistently denied accurate information about East Timorese demands for self-determination and fed a diet of official make-believe.

This is one reason why General Suharto clings so tenaciously to his control of the media. Indonesia's journalists and broadcasters still must operate under one of the world's most insidious censorship regimes, which even today assures that commercial broadcasters (all of whom, anyway, are controlled by the Suharto family or its close associates) fear for a regime of tight self-censorship, rather than featuring news that may be deemed to be politically sensitive.

Without a free and open debate, East Timorese aspirations are unlikely to be understood in Indonesia and the territory's future will remain a matter of international concern.

Yours faithfully,
MALCOLM SMART,
Deputy Director,
Article 19, The International Centre Against Censorship,
Lancaster House,
33 Islington High Street, N1,
October 15.

Rabies and quarantine

From Dr G. S. Turner

Sir, On October 11 you reported a human case of rabies (letters, October 16) and the hazards he presented to those who attended him before his inevitable death.

Today the Governor of Hong Kong joined consular officials, service personnel and the Minister for Agriculture in the clamour for abolishing quarantine. The abolitionists' argument is that "the law far outweighs the level of threat".

However, although the WHO world survey notes a dramatic decline in rabies incidence in Hong Kong's neighbour China, which is about to take over the colony, some 40,000 cases a year were recorded up to 1983.

Similarly in Europe, despite a steady decline, nearly 3,000 cases were recorded in the first quarter of this year; most of these were in foxes but almost 1,000 were in domestic animals, of which approximately half were dogs and cats.

Yours faithfully,
G. S. TURNER,
81 Charnmouth Road,
St Albans, Hertfordshire,
October 14.

From Dr David Brown

Sir, I disagree with the views expressed by Dr Thomas Stutfold (Medical briefing, October 11).

First, it is incorrect to state that the spit alone of a human case of rabies can infect others. The only recognised method of transmission of rabies from person to person has been through corneal transplantation. Although the spit of cases poses a theoretical risk, the chance of transmission to a healthcare worker is extremely remote.

Referendum Party

From Mr S. B. C. Ewelegh

Sir, Previous opponents castigated Sir James Goldsmith, a former green-grocer, for being a shopkeeper (report, June 12). Now a wing of the Bow Group likens him ("Pro-Europe Tories mock Goldsmith's 'Napoleonic ego'", October 16) to Napoleon, that arch critic of shopkeepers.

It seems Sir James cannot win (except perhaps in the seats of some Euro-federalist MPs).

Yours faithfully,
SHAUN EWELEGH,
Cairnbrook,
Fairy Road, Seaview, Isle of Wight.

From Mr S. H. Murray Wells

Sir, I suppose it was predictable that the Conservative Bow Group should

From Mr Andrew Stuart

Sir, In December 1975, when the Indonesian army invaded East Timor, I was head of the political section in the British Embassy, Jakarta.

No one in the Foreign Office was starry-eyed about the occupation. Since independence the Indonesian Government has always had a rough record of taking over places within its geographical area. Irian Jaya (West Irian), which no one remembers now, was arguably an even more brutal example, and even within Indonesia proper Javanese colonialism has created tensions between the ethnically very different islands.

But for Ramos Horta's party, Fretilin, and still more for the Portuguese Government now to pose as innocents and peacemakers is, in my view, absurd. Your leading article says that, at the time of the invasion, East Timor was a Portuguese colony. It was not. The Portuguese had simply abandoned the place of their own free will, leaving a complete vacuum. The result was chaos, which Fretilin, the alleged freedom movement, was quite unable to resolve: in fact I would assert they contributed to it.

The Indonesians could just have let things rip. They chose instead to take over. They made a mess of it, but others, including those now honoured, have, in my view, let down the people of East Timor as badly as have they.

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW STUART,
Long Hall,
North Street, Wareham, Dorset,
October 14.

Secondly, there have been only a handful of cases who have survived once the illness has started, and there is no evidence that modern intensive-care support leads to increased survival.

Many people in Britain do not appreciate that rabies still occurs in most countries in the world, and that an effective treatment exists.

It is possible to prevent the onset of rabies by prompt treatment with vaccine at the time of an animal bite. Travellers abroad should be advised of the importance of seeking prompt medical attention if they are bitten, both in the country and on returning home.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID BROWN,
Public Health Laboratory Service,
Central Public Health Laboratory,
Virus Reference Division,
61 Colindale Avenue, NW9,
October 11.

From Mrs Gwenda Brophy

Sir, Several years ago I incurred about bringing my German Shepherd dog back from southern Africa. The kennel costs were prohibitive and included, I recall, a surcharge for heating Binky's kennel during the cold weather (and what dog-loving owner could deny this comfort?). The amount required was hardly less than the cost of heating my Victorian two-bedroom property.

Whatever the arguments for and against the present system, there are certainly sound economic arguments for the dismantling of the existing cosy, extractive market structure.

Yours sincerely,
GWENDA BROPHY,
6 Mosses Road, Bromley, Kent,
October 14.

attempt to traduce Sir James Goldsmith's motives. It will surely have the opposite effect.

The general election will be founded on a false prospectus: whether the country is to be governed by Labour or the Conservatives, Sir James has merely pointed out something that may be painful for politicians but is nevertheless obvious: the question on the table will in fact be whether the country is to be governed by Brussels or Westminster.

His suggestion that the electorate should decide this altogether new and overriding constitutional question without obfuscation does not seem unreasonable to me.

Yours faithfully,
S. H. MURRAY WELLS,
Pond Farm, Shipton Moyne,
Tetbury, Gloucestershire,
October 17.

Thatcher's parents

From Dr G. W. Bernard

Sir, Reviewing how politicians draw on the experience of their families in order to illustrate their arguments (report, October 12), Alice Thomson says of Margaret Thatcher that "her mother wasn't even mentioned in her autobiography".

No so. The first chapter of *The Path to Power* (1995), "A provincial childhood", frequently refers to her mother, Beatrice Roberts. And later in the same volume she writes:

Like many people who live for others, [my mother] made possible all that her husband and daughters did... Although in later years I would speak more readily of my father's political influence on me, it was from my mother that I inherited the ability to organize and combine so many different duties of an active life.

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE BERNARD,
University of Southampton,
Department of History,
Highfield, Southampton, Hampshire.

A woman's work is almost done

From Mr A. D. Hewson

Sir, I continue to be bemused by media laments for the destruction of the role of men in contemporary society (articles, "The second sex?", October 14) when it is the housewife who has lost an empire and has yet to find a role.

All those born or brought up in the Fifties will remember the acquisition of material goods which, step by step, reduced the role of housewife from a full-time fulfilling role to a part-time nuisance job. The household wash took all day Monday until the arrival of the washing machine. The vacuum cleaner cut the cleaning hours in half. The supermarket eliminated Friday as baking day and the refrigerator transformed shopping from a daily event to a weekly chore.

From an historical perspective the mechanisation of the home has eliminated the role of millions of women in much the same way that mechanisation of agriculture eliminated the role of the agricultural peasant. It is only because "housewife" was not and is not a paid occupation that we do not register such job destruction and its consequences.

Yours sincerely,
ANDREW HEWSON,
15 Bridus Mead,
Blewbury, Oxfordshire,
October 14.

Making allowances

From Sir Sydney Giffard

Sir, Who has put Joe Joseph (article, October 14) up to revive the old belief that the Japanese man survives on pocket money given to him by his wife from his own wage packet?

For many years the man has devalued the contents of his pay packet, half into his pocket and the other half into a specially produced lookalike packet, handing the latter to his wife in the confident expectation that she will supplement his own allocation quite generously.

Yours sincerely,
SYDNEY GIFFARD,
Winkley House,
Berwick St John,
Nr Shaftesbury, Wiltshire,
October 14.

University finances

From the Pro-Vice-Chancellor of the University of Buckingham

Sir, You report today (News in brief) that the London School of Economics has decided, for the time being, not to introduce top-up fees for undergraduate students. This reprieve is almost certain to be only temporary.

Top-up fees are inevitable. This is not just because levels of state funding have fallen to the point where many universities' finances are in a critical condition. It is also because the small-group teaching and attention to the individual which were once the hallmark of British higher education are rapidly disappearing in all but a select handful of universities, as the ratio of teaching staff to students has grown ever more disadvantageous.

Students who want more personal attention will in future have to pay more than the Government provides, either, as in Germany, through private arrangements for additional tuition, or through top-up fees.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT A. PEARCE,
The University of Buckingham,
Buckingham MK13 1EG,
October 15.

National Grid

From Mr Colin Humphrey

Sir, Andrew Young and Peter McGregor (letters, October 9 and 11) rightly draw attention to the great need to improve our landscape by laying electricity lines underground.

I support their case, but it will not succeed unless it is a long-term programme, with part of the cost appearing on the customer's electricity bills. Perhaps the electricity utilities could be requested to commit a percentage of their capital budgets to burying overhead lines; and Offer, the electricity regulator, which already monitors the costs of the utilities, could examine that expenditure to check that the cost to consumers is fair.

This should not be confined to National Grid, which manages the highest voltages, but should include the intermediate voltages of the regional electricity companies.

The UK would not be the first. Electricity de France has a policy of burying lines. And why stop at electricity? Telephone cables are easier and cheaper to lay underground.

Yours faithfully,
C. D. HUMPHREY,
1 The Orchard, Church Road,
Great Bookham, Surrey.

Face-saving

From Mr Jason Barbour

Sir, At prep school I grew a first-rat crop of cress on my flannel (letters, October 12, 15, 17). The flannel, however, did not come out so well and went into permanent set-aside.

Yours faithfully,
JASON BARBOUR,
19 Cortayne Road, SW6,
October 17.

